

Holiness in an Unholy World

We Live in an Unholy World

- We live our Christian lives in the context of an **unholy world**.
- Unless the Apostolic woman is prepared for the evil assaults on her mind and heart, she will have great difficulty maintaining personal holiness.
- We are to be the “salt of the earth” and the “light of the world.”
- Instead of withdrawing from contact with the world, we must *strive* to **resist** its influence.
- We must live by the convictions God has given us from His Word.
- The convictions we develop about God's will for a *holy* life must be solid enough to withstand the ridicule of the ungodly and the pressures they put on us to conform to their **unholy** ways.

Set Apart

- The word **holy** comes from a root that means “to cut, to separate.” It means to be set apart, to be distinct, to be different.
- Sometimes Christians feel that to be “set apart” is punishment. But, being “set part” is not an attempt on God's part to deprive us or condemn us to a cheerless, joyless lifestyle. It is a priceless privilege, **IT IS A CALL!**
- Holiness includes a *sacrifice* of our **desires** and **wills**.
- We should be willing to do **anything** to make ourselves acceptable to God, regardless of the sacrifice.
- We must be **holy** and **separated** in order to be acceptable.

Holiness is Maintained by Love for God

- Although we live in a corrupt and unholy world we can maintain holiness if we love God.
- We can live holy by loving God, and not the world, which is under Satan's control.
- When we love God, we want to obey His Word. Although there are times when the flesh does not want to be obedient, His spirit in us helps us to be obedient.

Basic Principles of Holiness

- The Bible teaches us the essential elements of true holiness. “*Be not conformed to this world*” (Romans 12:2). “*Abstain from all appearance of evil*” (1 Thessalonians 5:22). “*Be temperate in all things*” (1 Corinthians 9:25).

We must not act or look like the world of sin. We must avoid even those things which have the *suggestion* of or a *resemblance* to evil. The questions should not be, "How closely can we resemble the world and still get by?" or "What is the least that we can do and still please God?" Rather, we should ask "What can we do to be as close to God as possible? How can we live so that there will be no doubt to the world that we are identified with Jesus Christ?"

- We must be temperate in all things, which means we should always exercise self control and restraint.

Separation From the World

- God has always insisted that His people be separated from the world. This includes outward manifestation of separation so that the world can readily identify true Christians.
- For Christians to exist as a chosen group of people, there must be points of separation, both internal and external.
- Holiness standards of dress, conduct, and adornment serve the very important function of maintaining a separation from the world. They help us to put a distance between Christians and temptation, sin and the world.
- We must be careful following all the latest fads and fashions of the world. By doing so, we can get trapped into identifying too closely with the world without recognizing it.
- We cannot allow ourselves to get caught up in the world, its desires, and its passions.
- Separation from the world means that we have to draw lines in order to avoid all such identification with the world.

The Challenge Today

The final challenge rests with you. Will you live a holy life? Will you live a life that is different from those who are not saved? Or, will you succumb to the pressures of the world and its so called modernization? Will you identify with God or with the world?