

# BECOMING

2 CORINTHIANS 3:18



## PURSUE HOLINESS.

As Americans, we're told that we get the privileges of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." However, as Jesus-followers, our mantra is a little different. We're called to have the privileges of being loved by God, loving others, and the pursuit of holiness.

Nope, not happiness. Holiness.

Now, note the phrasing. We are not pursuing "holier than thouness." When we are told to "hate evil and cling to what is good," we're not hating our neighbor who does wrong. Instead, we're looking in on our own lives and finding distaste for our sins instead of apathy or enjoyment. We're called to be holy, not to call out our neighbor but in order to *love our neighbor even better*. What a paradigm shift! How would the world look if *that* was how we pursued holiness?

## IN THE BIBLE.

### 1 John 3:6-10

6 No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. 7 Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. 8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. 9 No one born of

God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. 10 By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

### **Romans 12:1-3**

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. 2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

3 Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us.

### **Romans 12: 9-13**

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. 10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

# QUESTIONS.

- 1.) What does it mean to "pursue holiness?"
- 2.) Romans 12:3 says to, "Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us." When you look at your own life and pursuit of holiness, are you being honest in your evaluation? How can you look at your life more honestly?
- 3.) What does it look like to "practice righteousness?" Are you already doing this? If not, what are ways you can start?

**Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:**

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?