

Lesson 17

Teacher's Manual

HOLINESS

READ & MEDITATE ON: I Corinthians 6:9-20 MEMORIZE: Titus 2:11-12

INTRODUCTION

There may be a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to keep silence and a time to speak as Solomon has said, but there is no time when a Christian ought not to be holy. Some may be rich and some may be poor, some learned and some unlearned; but there is no rank or condition in life in which a Christian ought not to be holy. It is a solemn thing to hear the Word of God saying, "...holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:" (Hebrews 12:14). We must ask ourselves two questions: (1) Are we holy, and (2) If not, shall we see the Lord?

What is holiness? Sometimes we can identify what something is, by considering what it is not. Holiness is not knowledge, nor great profession, nor doing many things, nor religious zeal, nor morality and outward respectability of conduct, nor is it taking pleasure in hearing preachers, nor keeping company with Godly people. These things alone are not holiness. A person may have any one of them and yet never see the Lord. The definition of the word holy according to Webster's Dictionary is: "set apart to the service of God, sacred, characterized by perfection and transcendence, commanding absolute adoration and reverence, spiritually pure." Holiness is having these qualities and this state of being. Some synonyms for holiness are: separation, consecration, dedication, godliness and purity. It can well be said that holiness is total separation! Holy living affects all areas of our life: body, soul, mind and spirit. Holiness is being of one mind with God. Holiness is God's nature baptized into man's character.

(NOTE: It is suggested that the pastor be given the opportunity to teach this lesson.)

I. HOLINESS THEN AND NOW

Let us consider God's call to holiness in the Old and New Testaments.

The New Testament teaches that there is something more than generalities about holy living. The details and particular ingredients of which holiness is composed should issue forth in daily life. True holiness does not consist merely of believing and feeling, but of doing and being. Holiness touches every area of our life: personal, family, business, and spiritual. Our tongues, tempers, natural passions, conduct and dress...all these matters are fully treated by the inspired writers of the Bible. Peter says:

"...as he which hath called you is holy,
so be ye holy in all manner of conversation (behavior); Because it is written,
Be ye holy; for I am holy."

I Peter 1:15-16

The writers of the New Testament are not content with a general statement of what we believe and feel and how we are to have the roots of holiness planted in our hearts. They dig down deeper. They go into particulars. They specify minutely what a holy person ought to do and be in his own family and also to outsiders. Sometimes this sort of teaching is not sufficiently stressed today. When people talk of having received an experience with God while their family and friends see no improvement in their behavior, great harm is done to the cause of Christ. True holiness is something of an "image of Christ" which can be seen and observed by others in our private life, habits, character and doings.

It is of great importance that the whole subject of holiness be placed on the right foundation. Satan knows the power of true holiness, and the great injury which increased attention to it will do to his kingdom. It is his interest to promote strife and controversy about this part of God's truth. The proper approach must be taken. Some people erroneously believe that holiness is not demanded for Christian living because it is "works" and not "faith" and we are saved by "...grace through faith" (Ephesians 2:8-9). Without any controversy, in the matter of our salvation (justification), faith is the one thing that is needful. All that believe (as the scripture hath said) are saved. Righteousness is imputed "...to him that worketh not, but believeth..." (Romans 4:5). It is absolutely right and scriptural to say that "faith alone saves." But it is not equally scriptural and right to say "faith alone sets you apart" (sanctifies). We are frequently told by the Apostle Paul that a man is, "...justified by faith without the deeds of the law..." (Romans 3:28). But not once are we told that we are "set apart" by faith without the deeds of the law. On the contrary, we are expressly told by James, that the faith whereby we are justified is a faith which "...if it hath not works, is dead, being along" (James 2:17). Works is an essential part of a holy life. This is why Paul reserved the latter part of most of his epistles to practical exhortations to holiness of life.

An ungodly way of life cannot be hid. Many people outside of God's grace live this way.

B. Dirty In - Clean Out

However, like the Pharisees, one could give an outward appearance of cleanliness but be full of wickedness on the inside. This kind of life is a pretense and a sham and is subject to the ultimate judgement of God. It is hypocrisy. Moral people outside the grace of God and pretenders in the church fall into this category.

C. Clean In - Dirty Out

There are times when a person who has newly come to the Lord will be inwardly cleansed but has not had time to clean up the outside. This could also happen when a Spirit-filled person is without proper teaching. However, this condition should not last very long.

D. Clean In - Clean Out

This condition comes as a result of a true inward cleansing "first," as Jesus said. The ultimate goal of every Christian should be this genuine inward and outward purity--a life that is truly holy.

A person who is holy inside and out will set his affections entirely on things above, and hold things on earth with a very loose hand. He will dread all uncleanness of body and spirit and will avoid all things that might draw him into it. He will give first place in his mind and thoughts to the life to come. He will live like one whose treasure is in heaven, and pass through this world like a stranger and pilgrim. To talk with God, read the Bible, assemble with His people, and do His work, will be his chief enjoyments.

III. HOLINESS STANDARDS

God, in His wisdom, has not always given explicit definitions of sin. He knew that times would change and sinful activities in various cultures would vary. He has therefore given the child of God principles to order his living in whatever society one might find himself. From the book, Victorious Living For New Christians, formerly published by the General Home Missions Division of the United Pentecostal Church we quote: "In many areas, a thin line separates right and wrong. Separation is not always easy and is quite often very difficult to explain, especially to one who has had no previous spiritual back-

not "of" it, even as he prayed that we, his people, would be. As our Master, we must be separated in a very distinctive manner.

"...As God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

II Corinthians 6:16-18

The followers of Jesus look, act, and are separate from the world. One can easily spot a committed Pentecostal, not only by their conservative dress, but by their hair-styles. The men always have short, clean-cut hair, and the women have their hair long and un-cut according to I Corinthians 11:1-16. (Important Note: Hebrews 7:26 says that Jesus was also "harmless." Caution: Do not force your convictions on the unsaved. How can they be expected to live holy without the Spirit of holiness?)

3. Abstain From Fleshly Lusts

We who have been born into the church have been called out of the world. We now have a heavenly citizenship, and are, "...strangers and pilgrims on the earth" (Hebrews 11:13). Because we are now the people of God, the Apostle Peter entreats us to keep away from evil passions which are able to destroy us:

"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul,"

I Peter 2:11

The Apostle Paul also warns that we should, "...make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof" (Romans 13:14). He says we can do this by putting on the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the only way anyone can truly be holy. We cannot arrive at holiness within ourselves alone. But by trusting Him to purify us, we can overcome every form of corruption and every bad habit. Our Lord is always there to help us, but it must be our heart's desire to, "Flee also youthful lusts" (II Timothy 2:22). One must exercise caution and discretion in regard to the material he reads and the music he listens to, so as not to excite inordinate sensual passions. Unwholesome parties, taverns and bathing beaches are off-limits to God's children.

from The Articles of Faith and The Holiness Position of the United Pentecostal Church, International, respectively).

1. Standards of Holiness

We wholeheartedly disapprove of our people indulging in any activities which are not conducive to good Christianity and Godly living, such as theatres, dances, mixed bathing, women cutting their hair, make-up, any apparel that immodestly exposes the body, all worldly sports and amusements, and unwholesome radio programs and music. Furthermore, because of the display of all of these evils on television, we disapprove of any of our people having television sets in their homes. We admonish all of our people to refrain from any of these practices in the interest of spiritual progress and the soon coming of the Lord for His church.

We disapprove of school students attending shows, dances, dancing classes, theatres, engaging in school activities against their scruples, and wearing gymnasium clothes which immodestly expose the body."

2. Holiness and Modesty

There are areas of outward holiness that specifically relate to the life of a Christian. There is the matter of modesty that is vital to both women and men. Modesty is not confined alone to dress. It also involves conversation and manners. From the standpoint of dress we have these scriptures: *Genesis 3:21, Genesis 9:23, Philippians 4:5, I Peter 3:1-4, Deuteronomy 22:5.*

As it is clearly defined in these scriptures, modest dress for women and the meekness and quietness of the spirit is the ornamentation that God desires. It is also very plain in the Word of God that there is to be a distinction between the dress of a woman and a man. The church in every generation must hold the standard that a woman must not dress in men's apparel or a man must not dress in women's apparel.

3. Holiness and Make-Up

A synthetic society is becoming fraudulent in appearance. Dye for the hair, paint for the face, and mascara for the eyes, makes the present society a strange mixture of artificiality and hypocrisy. The United Pentecostal Church has taken a position that all of these conditions are heathenistic in origin and date back to Queen Jezebel, whose very image speaks of rebellion and opposition to

so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy" (I Peter 1:15-16). Is that not sufficient? Jesus said in the book of John, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." "He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me." Plainer words than these would be hard to find, and woe to those who neglect them! It takes a cold heart to know all that Jesus suffered to get rid of sin and yet allow sin to remain as a part of their life, declaring that inasmuch as no one is perfect, we will continue to let our flesh have its own good time. We must hate sin and get rid of it, though we may have to cut off the right hand and pluck out the right eye in doing it. "...hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments" (I John 2:3).

We forget that there is a close connection between sin and sorrow, holiness and happiness. God has ordained that our well-being and our well-doing are linked together. He has so provided that even in this world, it shall be man's interest to be holy. We do not expect to feel the sun's rays upon a dark and cloudy day, neither should we expect to feel strong consolation in the Lord while we do not follow Him fully. He who lives easy for the Lord will find his way hard, but he who lives hard for the Lord will find his way easy. No person deserves to be called "holy" who willfully allows themselves to sin, makes a habit of neglecting known duties, and doing what they know God has commanded them not to do.

B. It Identifies True Saints

We must be holy because this is the one purpose for which Jesus came into the world. He wanted to call a people out of the world, transform them like unto Himself and come back again to call them His Bride. Paul writes to the Corinthians, "...he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again" (II Corinthians 5:15). To Titus, Paul wrote, that Jesus Christ, "...gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works" (Titus 2:14). In short, to talk of men being saved from the guilt of sin, without being at the same time saved from its dominion in their hearts, is to contradict the witness of all scripture. Jesus is a complete Saviour. He does not merely take away the guilt of sin, He breaks the power of it. We must be holy because this is the only sound evidence that we have a saving faith. It is the outstanding proof that we really love the Lord. In fact, the word "saint" literally means "the consecrated, sacred or set apart one." True faith will always show itself by its fruit. Faith will sanctify, work by love, overcome the world, and purify the heart. The only safe evidence that we are one with Christ and Christ is in us, is a holy life. Children in this world are generally like

Book of Revelation says expressly, of the holy city, "...there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie" (Revelation 21:27). Therefore, unless we live holy on earth, we shall never be prepared to enter and enjoy Heaven. If we die unholy, there will be no change, for as a tree falls, so shall it lie. The grave will not work any change in us. Each one of us will rise again with the same character in which we breathed our last breath. Where will our place be if we are strangers to holiness now? Suppose you were allowed to enter Heaven without holiness: What would you do? What enjoyment would you feel there? To which crowd of saints would you join yourself and by whose side would you stand? Their pleasures are not your pleasures. Their tastes are not your tastes. Their character will not be your character. How could you possibly be happy if you had not ever been holy? Now, you love the company of the light and careless, the worldly-minded and the covetous, the reveller and the pleasure-seeker, the ungodly and the profane. None of these will be in Heaven. In this world you think the saints of God are too strict and particular and serious. You stay away from them and label them as fanatics. You may even call them "legalists" and think that they are bound by meaningless traditions. You have no delight in their church or their society. However, there will be no other company in Heaven. How could an unholy person find any pleasure in the most holy place there is--Heaven? Do you think you would enjoy meeting Jesus face to face after cleaving to the sins for which He died, after loving His enemies and hating His friends? Could you stand with the others and join in the cry, "...this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation" (Isaiah 25:9). You will feel like a stranger in a land you know nothing about: like a black sheep amidst God's holy flock. The song of angelic hosts and the redeemed will be songs you cannot possibly understand. The very air would be air that you could not possibly breathe.

One can look at the world and see the greater part lying in wickedness. One can look at many professing Christians and see the vast majority having nothing of Christianity but the name. Godly living will characterize the life of every child of the Lord because they will be living according to the example and pattern given in the Word of God:

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world."

Titus 2:11-12

Holiness affects every area of our lives: how we look, what we say, where we go and what we do. The early disciples of Jesus were called Christians because they were "Christ-like." "To Be Like Jesus" should still be the theme of every born-again believer.



their parents. If men have no likeness to their Father in heaven, it is vain to talk of their being His "sons." If we do not know anything about holiness, we may flatter ourselves as we please but we must show by our lives the family we belong to. We must let men see our good works so that they can glorify our Father which is in Heaven.

C. It Represents The Gospel

We cannot live only to ourselves in this world. Our lives will always be doing either good or harm to those who observe us. We are a silent sermon which all can read. It is really sad when that sermon is preached more for the devil's cause, than for God's. Far more is done for the Kingdom by the holy living of believers than we are aware of. There is a reality that accompanies it which makes men feel, and makes them think. It carries a weight and influence which nothing else can give. True holiness is a great reality. It is something in a man that can be seen, known, and felt by all around him. It is light and if it exists, it will show itself. It is salt and if it exists, it will have its savour. It is precious ointment and if it exists, its presence cannot be hid. It makes religion beautiful and draws men to consider it. You may talk to persons about doctrine, but without a holy life, few will listen. Your walk with God is an argument that none can deny. Sound doctrine is useless if it is not accompanied by a holy life. Without righteousness, truth is despised by the world as an unreal and hollow thing and brings religion into contempt. We all, as individuals and local churches, need a thorough revival of scriptural holiness.

There is far more harm done by unholy and inconsistent people than we are aware of. Such are among Satan's best allies. They pull down by their lives what ministers build up with their lips. They cause the chariot wheels of the Gospel to drive heavily. They supply the children of this world with a never-ending excuse to remain as they are. Often the statement is made, "I am as good as that person who claims the Holy Ghost." In other words, if a child of God can do the things of the world, whether it be in their activities or in their appearance, the attitude of a worldly person is, "What good is there in religion?" Oh, Child of God, let us take heed, lest the blood of souls should be required at our hands! From the murder of souls by our inconsistency and loose walking, may God deliver us. For the sake of others, if for no other reason, let us be holy.

D. It Is Required In Heaven

Heaven is a holy place. God is holy. Angels are holy creatures. Holiness is written on everything in Heaven. The

anything Godly or Christ-like. The scriptures give us a very decided understanding that the natural beauty of women and the masculinity of men demands every aspect of reality and natural appearance. Read *I Timothy 2:8-9*, *II Kings 9:30*, *Jeremiah 4:30* and *Ezekiel 23:40*.

4. Holiness and Jewelry

The scriptures teach us that the wearing of gold and the emphasis of putting on of elaborate apparel is a low key position with a New Testament Christian. Jewelry in excess steps out of the rank of modest and into the area of the heathen. The Lord's delight is in the ornamentation of a meek and quiet spirit. We disapprove of the expensiveness and the excessiveness of jewelry that is not necessary. A watch and convenient accessories that assist the individual in his or her attire is to be given thoughtful consideration so that the emphasis does not steer from the real and subvert to the gaudy. See *I Timothy 2:9*, *I Peter 3:3*, *Judges 8:24* and *Revelation 17:4*.

5. Holiness and Morality

Carefully consider *I Thessalonians 4:3-5*, *I Corinthians 6:9-11*, and *Ezekiel 16:49*. There are several pertinent truths in the light of the foregoing scriptures. One, that sanctification and holiness demands a "possessed (controlled) vessel." Two, that fornication should not be the practice of Christians. In *I Corinthians 6:9-11*, the permissive, promiscuous, degenerative sins are clearly outlined as the transgressions of the past. The new creature, born again, has been washed, sanctified, and justified. That individual no longer commits such clearly defined unholy acts as: fornication, drunkenness, adultery, effeminacy, abusing themselves with mankind, degeneracy, idolatry, thievery, extortioning, and reviling. With the clear-cut statement "such were some of you..." we recognize that these sins are no longer to be practiced by New Testament Christians or ministers. We therefore strongly oppose the drinking of "strong drink" alcoholic beverages, either moderately or otherwise.

IV. WHY HOLINESS IS IMPORTANT:

A. It Is Commanded By God

We must be holy, because the voice of God in scripture plainly commands it. Peter says, "...as He which hath called you is holy,

4. You Are God's Temple

Our body is God's temple. It must be sanctified (Greek: purified, made holy) just as the Old Testament sanctuary of the Lord was. God's presence had long dwelt in temples made with hands until the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit of God filled human hearts. We are now commanded to "...sanctify the Lord God..." in our hearts (I Peter 3:15).

"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

I Thessalonians 5:23

The believer's body is the temple of the Holy Ghost. In times past, whenever the temple of the Holy One of Israel was desecrated, God destroyed it. Likewise our body (God's holy temple) will be destroyed if we defile it. The Christian must be concerned about the things he subjects his body to. For, according to the scripture, it is the property of the One who died for him.

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."

I Corinthians 3:16-17

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price."

I Corinthians 6:19-20

In view of these truths, and the scripture which speaks against addicting habits (I Corinthians 6:12) a Christian should never partake of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco which are so obviously destructive and injurious to the body, mind and soul.

B. Practices

"Following are the positions our present-day apostolic church has taken in regard to applying biblical holiness principles to our present-day lifestyle: (The excerpts below are taken directly

ground. Some things dealt with on this subject could be of a controversial nature. Since the Bible does not deal with every minute contingency of evil, especially involving modern innovations of it, a general deduction of meaning must be ascertained. From no direct reference in every case, but from practical suggestions, a reasonable conclusion must be drawn." The following are scriptural principles and practices that guide holy living.

A. Principles

There are definite principles for holy living in the Word of God that give us appropriate guidelines in our 20th Century.

1. Love Not The World

The scriptures admonish us to have the proper perspective of the ungodly system that holds the earth in its sway. We know that Satan is "the god of this world..." (II Corinthians 4:4), and for this reason, the Bible says:

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

I John 2:15-16

"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

James 4:4

2. Be Ye Separate

Of course, Christians must live in the world, but our Lord says that we are not of it (John 17:14-15). John the apostle says we are to walk, "...even as he walked..." (I John 2:6). In the 7th chapter of Hebrews, verse 26, we are told that Jesus was, "...holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners..." This, then, is how we should walk. However, one must be careful not to confuse separation with isolation. Jesus mixed with people freely; however, He never compromised or participated in ungodliness to be their friend. He was truly "in" the world but

II. INWARD AND OUTWARD HOLINESS

In the New Testament we have a scriptural insight into inner and outer holiness. The whole man must be completely sanctified and given to God. The Apostle Paul declares:

"...let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh (outward) and spirit (inward)..."

II Corinthians 7:1

"...glorify God in your body (outward) and in your spirit (inward), which are God's."

I Corinthians 6:20

Holiness is an inward and outward condition. A holy person will not only make sure that the inside of "the cup" is clean, but also he will make sure of the outside. Who wants to drink out of a cup that might be clean on the inside but dirty on the outside? Either will cause the drinking to be distasteful. A holy person will want to please God in his inward thoughts, attitudes and emotions as well as his outward appearance, actions, and speech. Consider the harsh rebuke the Master gave the hypocrites of his day for not maintaining the proper balance of inward and outward holiness:

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess, Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also."

Matthew 23:25-26

There are only four ways a person could be in regard to the holiness conditions Jesus set forth here as He compared our lives to cups:

A. Dirty In - Dirty Out

A person who is inwardly dirty ultimately reflects his condition by his outward lifestyle. "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man" (Mark 7:21-23).

A. Holiness In The Old Testament Priesthood

God's people have always been required to be holy. "Holiness to the Lord" was the written expression on the Old Testament priest's crown. Holiness was a requirement for them to be accepted of God.

"And thou shalt make a plate of pure gold, and grave upon it, like the engravings of a signet, HOLINESS TO THE LORD. And thou shalt put it on a blue lace, that it may be upon the mitre; upon the forefront of the mitre it shall be. And it shall be upon Aaron's forehead, that Aaron may bear the iniquity of the holy things, which the children of Israel shall hallow in all their holy gifts; and it shall be always upon his forehead, that they may be accepted before the Lord."

Exodus 28:36-38

B. Holiness In The New Testament Priesthood

As the priest of the Old Testament, the New Testament "believer-priest" is called, "...unto holiness" (I Thessalonians 4:7), and set apart for special service to God. "Holiness to the Lord" is required of individuals in the church in order to be accepted of God. II Corinthians 5:17 states, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." The word "new" from the original Greek was taken from the word "sanctified" and it actually means a person is a separated creature unto God. This new creation is accomplished by the new birth of water and Spirit described in John 3:5-6. That which is born of the Spirit is a new creature, His old life is exterminated, obliterated, baptized, buried, and the body of sin in the flesh is destroyed. In this holy state he can appear before God as the Hebrew priests once did. In the Old Testament, "Holiness to the Lord" was written across the Priest's mitre; in the New Testament, "Holiness unto the Lord" is written on the new creature's heart. In our dispensation, all of God's people are considered by Him to be "priests." In his first general epistle, Peter told the saints...

"...ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar (purchased) people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light..."

I Peter 2:9