

THE DOCTRINE OF HOLINESS

TEXT: (Leviticus 19:1-2, NIV)

¹ The LORD said to Moses, ² "Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: 'Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.

KEY VERSE: "Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14, NIV).

INTRODUCTION:

1. "So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (Romans 7:21-25, NIV).
2. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (II Corinthians 5:17, NIV).
3. "Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness" (Romans 6:16-18, NIV).
4. "And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it" (Isaiah 35:8, NIV).

I. WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES CONCERNING HOLINESS

A. Holiness Is a Basic Characteristic of God

1. "Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: 'Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy" (Leviticus 19:2, NIV).
2. "Consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am the LORD your God. Keep my decrees and follow them. I am the LORD, who makes you holy" (Leviticus 20:7-8, NIV).
3. "Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy'" (I Peter 1:13-16, NIV).
4. "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind" (I Peter 1:13, KJV).
5. "And if we are careful to obey all this law before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us, that will be our righteousness" (Deuteronomy 6:25, NIV).

B. Each Individual Is Responsible for Holiness

1. "If you love me, you will obey what I command" (John 14:15, NIV).
2. "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching" (John 14:23, NIV).

C. What Motivates Man to Holiness?

1. "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (I John 2:15, NIV).
2. "Let those who love the LORD hate evil" (Psalm 97:10, NIV).

II. HOLINESS IS NOT AN OPTION

A. We Are Commanded to Live Holy

1. "Be holy, because I am holy" (I Peter 1:16, NIV).
2. "So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith" (Galatians 3:24, NIV).

B. Holiness Is Necessary to See God

1. " "You are to be holy to me because I, the LORD, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own" (Leviticus 20:26, NIV).
2. "Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14, NIV).

III. HOLINESS DEMANDS SEPARATION FROM SIN AND DEDICATION UNTO GOD

A. Separation from Sin

1. "Avoid every kind of evil" (I Thessalonians 5:22, NIV).
2. "Abstain from all appearance of evil" (I Thessalonians 5:22, KJV).
3. "Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you" (II Corinthians 6:17, NIV).
4. "Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God" (II Corinthians 7:1, NIV).

B. Holiness is Both Inward and Outward

1. "First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean" (Matthew 23:26, NIV).

C. On Display by God

1. "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light" (I Peter 2:9, NIV).
2. "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:14-16, NIV).

CONCLUSION

1. "You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness" (Ephesians 4:22-24, NIV).
2. "And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit" (II Corinthians 3:18, NIV).
3. "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh" (Ezekiel 36:26, NIV).