

Lesson Topic: Holiness – Living a Distinctive Life

Lesson Scripture: Hebrews 12:14

Lesson Commentary: Holiness – Living a Distinctive Life

We can't live our old ways . . . We are new in Christ . . . New Desires . . . New Direction. . . New Patterns. . . New Appetite. . . New Pursuits. . . New Songs. . . New Communication

Experiencing the presence of God, spending time communicating from our knees, weeping over the souls of those yet shackled – God wants us to get rid of many of the trappings and hindrances of our day. Instead of spending hours in front of the TV, computer, or phone, shopping to accumulate more and more material things, indulging in self-pleasure, pursuing the almighty dollar, God calls us to develop a distinctive, disciplined spirit-led life. We must learn the meaning of forbearing, develop the disciplines of spiritual perseverance, and grow up spiritually. We must become women of faith, prayer, obedience, and service, setting a spiritual standard of holiness. Do you think holiness is being sinless? Do you think holiness is unattainable? Do you think holiness is unimaginable? Holiness does mean “set apart,” but it doesn't bring isolation. Rather, it brings integration with Christ in you and His Word, and allows His character to become a part of you so that His nature is expressed through you. Holiness is moral integrity, freedom from sin, and conforming our innermost being to the will of God with outward manifestation in our conduct. Holiness is a gift of God through Christ, which impacts our thoughts, actions, emotions, and deeds. Old ways become weaker, new ways get stronger – holiness is a process that occurs through exposure to God's Word and His Spirit.

Consider this story . . .

There's a story told of a young girl walking with her uncle through his watermelon patch. He showed her a tiny black seed, and explained that the big melons grew from small seeds like the ones his hand. For the little girl, it was a “Wow!” moment – seemingly impossible. Only 80 miles from her town was another town named Hope. A young man there, having given his seed proper care and right environment in which to grow, produced a world record 260 pound watermelon. What a great and enormous fruit produced from a small seed!

Lesson Questions:

1. In which chapter of I Peter, do we find these instructions?

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| be prepared | suffer for righteousness | love | be honest | silence negative voices by your life |
| be sober | be respectful | fear & trust God | obey | be single-minded |
| keep your mouth | lay aside hate | crave the word | live holy | |
| let go wrong desires | be tender-hearted | fear God | be humble | |

2. Which word best represents the idea of each of these verses?

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| 1. ___ Colossians 3:1-2 | A. Called |
| 2. ___ II Corinthians 7:1 | B. Disciplined |
| 3. ___ Romans 12:1-2 | C. Seeking |
| 4. ___ I Thessalonians 4:7 | D. Changed |
| 5. ___ Ephesians 4:22-23 | E. Transformed |
| 6. ___ I Peter 1:13-16 | F. Cleansing |
| 7. ___ Hebrews 12:14 | G. Following |

3. Holiness has been defined in many ways. Which 2 most accurately define holiness & which 2 do not belong?

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| Holiness is not an option. | Holiness is a process. |
| Holiness is like a daily battle of obedience. | Holiness is automatically having good thoughts, attitudes, and actions once we become new in Christ. |
| Holiness requires putting sin to death. | Holiness is conformity to the character of God. |
| Holiness requires personal discipline. | Holiness is a challenge to believers to live differently from the society around us. |
| Holiness is dedicating your life to the service of the Lord. | Holiness is an attitude of the heart. |
| Holiness is a one-time action completed at the time of salvation. | Holiness is establishing a pattern of holy living. |
| Holiness is consecration to God. | Holiness calls us from infantile behavior of selfishness and wanting our way to the discipline of holiness. |
| Holiness is in contrast to immorality and impurity. | Holiness motivates us to serve Christ with great fortitude and commitment. |
| Holiness is not living according to previous evil desires. | |
| Holiness is living a life in conformity to the moral precepts of the Bible. | |
| Holiness is putting off the old and putting on the new. | |

4. We have talked about holiness expressed in the life Prophetess Anna from Luke 2:36-38. Which other biblical women also demonstrate holiness in action? _____