

God is Holy, but I Can't Be, Right?
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Do I really need a workshop on holiness?

1. A “_____” in our thinking—We say we love Jesus, and we say we love the gospel; but we don't love holiness and love to be like the God we say we love.
2. A “_____” in our thinking—We say Christ has covered me in grace so I need to do nothing ... to ... I need to do more for Christ so I can win His favor.
3. A “_____” in our thinking—We say we need to be holy; but since we don't believe we can achieve holiness on this earth, we stop pursuing it.

Why do we have this “holey” thinking about holiness?

1. Holiness equaled a big _____.
2. Holiness meant you were a weird and outdated _____.
3. Holiness never was _____.
4. Holiness counteracts the _____.
5. Holiness is seen as _____ and _____.
6. Holiness makes people _____.
7. Holiness is _____!
8. Holiness is _____.

What is holiness? _____

Positional – once-for-all at the time of salvation; definitive sanctification; Christ imputes His righteousness on us, and God always sees us through Christ's righteousness...holy. This is the moment we are holy. Hebrews 10:10, 14; 1 Corinthians 1:2, 30; 6:11

Progressive – on-going-for-your-whole-life process of growing; the Spirit works within us to conform us to God's image day by day. This is the process in which we become holy. Philippians 2:12-13; Hebrews 10:14

Holiness is NOT

1. Mere _____ keeping
2. Generational _____
3. Generic _____
4. Finding your _____
5. The way of the _____

Holiness is the renewal of God's image in us. Titus 2:11-14

1. Holiness looks like a life marked by _____.
2. Holiness looks like a clean _____.
3. Holiness looks like _____ to God's commands.
4. Holiness looks like _____.

Holiness has often seemed like a checklist of things—a list of rules—to do that make me holy. Because laws are impossible to keep all the time, we see them as a bad guy in our life.

Thoughts on the Law

1. The law is an expression of God's grace and character. They show us what God is like, what He values, and what He hates.
2. The law leads us to the need for the gospel, and the gospel leads us to the need for the law. We are sinners helpless to follow the law to redeem us, and we are sinners who need the law to provide direction after we are redeemed.
3. The Bible's typical pattern: the law came after redemption.
4. The law is about loving God and our neighbor so if we throw out the law, we throw out love. Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:36-40
5. The law cannot save. The *good news* is the **root** of our salvation, and *good works* are the **fruit** of our salvation.

We can't fix every injury, disease, illness, or hurt in our life with ice. In the same way, we can't address every sin in our life with one verse or motivate every Christian with one verse. God provides several different motivations to pursue holiness.

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How do I become holy?

1. S
 - a. Power – Romans 8:9-13
 - b. Light – John 16:7-11; 1 Corinthians 2:6-16; 2 Corinthians 3:18
2. G
 - a. Overwhelmed with gratitude
 - b. Overwhelmed with who I am in Christ
3. F
 - a. The fight against sin and Satan is a fight to trust God to do what He says He will do.
 - b. It's called the fight of faith!
 - c. Trusting does not put an end to trying

I cannot be like Christ if I am not IN Christ.

Holy is who I am in Christ; holiness is what I pursue through Christ.

Motivation for Holiness

“The gospel is always the remedy for the guilt of sin, but when it comes to overcoming the presence of sin, Jesus has many doses at His disposal.” –K. Deyoung.

Duty: Ecclesiastes 12:13 (KJV) Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man.

God knows all and sees all: Ecclesiastes 12:14 (KJV) For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil.

It's right: Ephesians 6:1 (KJV) Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

It's for our good: Deuteronomy 12:28 (KJV) Observe and hear all these words which I command thee, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee forever, when thou does *that which is* good and right in the sight of the LORD thy God.

God's example: Ephesians 4:32 (KJV) And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Christ's example: Ephesians 5:2 (KJV) And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor.

Assurance: 2 Peter 1:10 (KJV) Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.

Being effective as a Christian: 2 Peter 1:8 (KJV) For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither *be* barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus' return: 2 Peter 3:11-12 (KJV) *Seeing* then *that* all these things shall be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought ye to be in *all* holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

The world is not our home: 1 Peter 2:11 (KJV) Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.

To win over our neighbors: 1 Peter 2:12 (KJV) Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by *your* good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

To lift up a nation: Proverbs 14:34 (KJV) Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin *is* a reproach to any people.

For the public good: Matthew 5:13 (KJV) Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

For the sake of our prayers: 1 Peter 3:7 (KJV) Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with *them* according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

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The futility of sin: Matthew 6:27 (KJV) Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

The folly of sin: Matthew 7:26-27 (KJV) And everyone that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

The promise of future grace: Matthew 6:33 (KJV) But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

The promise of future judgment: Romans 12:19 (KJV) Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

The fear of future judgment: Hebrews 10:26-27 (KJV) For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

The surety of our inheritance: Hebrews 10:34 (KJV) For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.

The communion of the saints: Hebrews 12:2 (KJV) Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

The good examples of others: Hebrews 13:7 (KJV) Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of *their* conversation.

The bad examples of others: 1 Corinthians 10:6 (KJV) Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.

We were created for good works: Ephesians 2:10 (KJV) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

God is the Master and we are his servants: Luke 17:10 (KJV) So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.

The fear of the Lord: 2 Corinthians 5:11a (KJV) Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men.

The love of the Lord: 1 John 4:11 (KJV) Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

To make God manifest: 1 John 4:12 (KJV) No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

In gratitude for grace: Romans 12:1 (KJV) I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.

For the glory of God: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (KJV) 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: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

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The character of God: Leviticus 11:44a (KJV) For I *am* the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I *am* holy.

The work of God: Exodus 20:2-3 (KJV) I *am* the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

To please God: Hebrews 13:16 (KJV) But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

To avoid the devil's snares: Ephesians 4:26-27 (KJV) Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil.

For an eternal reward: 1 Timothy 6:18-19 (KJV) That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

Because Christ has all authority: Matthew 28:18-20a (KJV) And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.

Love for Christ: John 14:15 (KJV) If ye love me, keep my commandments.

Fullness of joy: John 15:10-11 (KJV) If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and *that* your joy might be full.

To experience God's favor: Proverbs 12:2 (KJV) A good *man* obtains favor of the LORD: but a man of wicked devices will he condemn.

Our union with Christ: Romans 6:5-6 (KJV) For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness* of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Being IN Christ

Being in Christ is living in union with Him. It is living in the reality that God's Spirit lives within me at the moment of my justification (salvation) and continues to work in me (sanctification) every day both "to will and to do of His good pleasure." Living in this reality of "Christ in me and I in Christ" helps me want to do *and* do His will (His ways, words, and plans). We can't imitate Christ if we are not united with Christ. In essence, pursuing holiness is being who Christ has already made me.

In Christ we are dead to sin and alive to righteousness.

Romans 6:4 (KJV) Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Colossians 3:1-3 (KJV) If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

In Christ we are new creations so that we might live for Him and not for ourselves.

2 Corinthians 5:15, 17 (KJV) And *that* he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again. Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

In Christ our sinful flesh is put to death and a new kind of life is at work in us.

Galatians 2:20 (KJV) I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

In Christ we are no longer sons of disobedience and children of wrath but are alive with Christ and able to do the good works prepared for us.

Ephesians 2:4-6, 10 (KJV) But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness

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toward us through Christ Jesus. ... For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

In Christ we can walk as He did.

Colossians 2:6 (KJV) As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him.

In Christ we are holy and precious and called to live like we are holy and precious.

Colossians 3:12-14 (KJV) Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do ye*. And above all these things *put on* charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

In Christ we face no condemnation and are free from sin's curse to live with the Spirit of life.

Romans 8:1-2 (KJV) *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

In Christ we are kept in God's love with the promise to never be separated from His love.

Romans 8:38-39 (KJV) For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In Christ we can be unified as we are called to fellowship together with Him.

1 Corinthians 1:9-10 (KJV) God *is* faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you; but *that* ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

In Christ we have been adopted and given spiritual blessings. In Christ He has chosen us to be holy. In Christ we are made accepted before God.

Ephesians 1:3-6 (KJV) Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

In Christ we who were hopeless and without God are now made near to Him.

Ephesians 2:12-13 (KJV) That at that time ye were without Christ, ... having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

In Christ we have direct access to God and are members of God's household.

Ephesians 2:18-19 (KJV) For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God.

In Christ we are heirs of God.

Romans 8:16-17 (KJV) The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

You are ONE with Christ. Be who you are.