



Pursuing Holiness

Closer to God 2022 (23)

Previously

- We have been addressing the subject of holiness.
- We have addressed the holiness of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.
- Today, we begin a study of pursuing holiness.

If we are holy...

We will devote our lives to Him

- To wholeheartedly commit to someone or something. It means that whatever (or whoever) it is, that becomes our focus, the very center of our lives.
- It is a strong word for complete and total dedication and loyalty.

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- **Leviticus 27:28-29** - devoted things that belong to the LORD
Vs. 29 - “under the ban”
- **Joshua 6:17-18** - “doomed”
“accursed” - same word (**cf. Joshua 7:1**)
- These illustrate what it means to be devoted to God -both for good and for judgment

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- **Proverbs 20:25**- it is a snare to a man to devote something rashly as holy.

If we are holy...

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- How does this apply to us?
- When we become Christians, we are devoted to God and Jesus
Luke 14:25-33, 9:57-62, 16:13
Romans 12:1-2
- 1 Corinthians 16:15, devoted to ministry
- 1 Peter 2:21-23 - Jesus “committed Himself.”

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- When we consider that holiness means we set ourselves apart for God, we need to be serious about this!

This requires total dedication - not half-hearted service!

It will affect every area of our lives

Psalm 119:2, we seek Him with the whole heart

If we are holy...

We will faithfully serve Him

- Holy means we now belong to Him. We are His servants.
- The opening of letters - **Philippians 1:1, James 1:1, 2 Peter 1:1, Jude 1, Revelation 1:1**
- **Romans 6:16-23** - slaves of righteousness. NOTE: We enter this voluntarily.

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- **1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 7:23**, a price was paid for us
- Who do we serve?
 - God **Hebrews 9:13-14, 1 Thess. 1:9**
 - Jesus - **John 12:26**
 - Righteousness - **Romans 6:18-19**
 - One another - **Galatians 5:13**

If we are holy...

We will faithfully serve Him

- What does it mean to be faithful?
- Faith means, “Firm persuasion, the conviction which is based upon hearing, not upon sight or knowledge; a firmly relying confidence in what we hear from God in His word.” (Bullinger)
Faith is about believing God and trusting Him.
I add faithfulness to its definition.
- Faithfulness is the response of genuine faith.

If we are holy...

We will faithfully serve Him

- **1 Corinthians 1:9, 10:13** - God is faithful. He has proven Himself trustworthy. We learn from Him what faithfulness is and WHY we ought to be faithful to Him.
- Can God depend on us to the degree that we depend on Him?
If our faith is as it ought to be, He can
(**cf. Job 1:8** - Job, **Numbers 12:7** - Moses)

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- Faithfulness - when I truly appreciate the grace and faithfulness of God, I will respond to Him by being faithful. Practically, you cannot separate faith from faithfulness.

1 Corinthians 4:2

James 2:17-18 - show me your faith

Matthew 25:23 - well done good and faithful servant

If we are holy...

We will faithfully serve Him

- When one is faithful:
He will do what he is supposed to do
WITH integrity and giving his best.
He serves not out of mere obligation,
but out of loyalty to his master.
He OWES Him his life!
He believes in and loves the one he
is serving
He is trustworthy and dependable.

If we are holy...

We will be separate

- Inherent in the word - holy
- In defining the subject of holiness, we noted that:
We are to be set apart FOR God -
Titus 2:14 - His own special people
We are to be set apart FROM the
world - **2 Corinthians 6:14-17, cf.**
John 17:14-16

If we are holy...

We will be separate

- Appreciating the holiness of God, what are we willing to sacrifice for Him? **Romans 12:1-2, Galatians 5:24** - crucify the flesh...? Live differently?
- We are not of this world - **Philippians 3:20, 1 Peter 2:11** - we are sojourners and pilgrims
We must live with that understanding

If we are holy...

We will be separate

- This is not just about God separating us, it is also something we must choose to do!
- What steps are we willing to take to be separate? **Colossians 3:1-2, Matthew 6:19-21, Romans 8:5-6** - Will we live according to the Spirit and not the flesh?
- We will be noticeably different!

If we are holy...

We will live lives of purity

- We do not want to jeopardize our holiness - so we live pure lives
- Purity is important -
Matthew 5:8
Psalm 24:3-4
2 Corinthians 7:1, *having these promises, let us cleanse ourselves...*

If we are holy...

We will live lives of purity

- **James 1:27** - pure and undefiled religion...
- **1 Peter 1:22**, *since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth...*

If we are holy...

We will live lives of purity

- **Psalm 119:9**, *How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.*
- God gets to set the standard of purity! This is the **ONLY** way for consistency. Far too many today want to define purity by their terms!
- **Luke 6:46**, *Why do you call Me Lord...?*

If we are holy...

It will affect EVERY aspect of our lives

- We are devoted to God
We faithfully serve Him
We live our lives separate from the world
We live lives of purity
- This will impact EVERYTHING about us:
Attitude, thinking, appearance,
conversations, where we go, how we
manage our time, what we do and what
we do NOT do!
- **It will become who we are!**

Are you pursuing holiness
according to His will?



Pursuing
Holiness

Let us pray!