
The Holiness Lifestyle (Honoring, Pleasing, and Glorifying God)

The Joys of Holiness

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Sermon: The Joys of Holiness: The Holiness Lifestyle (Honoring, Pleasing, and Glorifying God)

New Series Messages: “The Joys of Holiness”

- Theme Scriptures: 1 Peter 1:15–16 (AV)¹⁵ But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; ¹⁶ Because it is written, ***Be ye holy***; for I am holy.
- Sermon: Entering into the Joy of the Lord (The Abundant Life of Holiness)
 - Entering into The Holiness of Your Call
 - Entering into The Holiness of Your Walk
 - Entering into The Holiness of Your Joy

Lesson Text

Proverbs 3:9–10 (AV)⁹ Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: ¹⁰ So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

2 Chronicles 7:14 (AV)¹⁴ If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Romans 8:16–18 (AV)¹⁶ The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Introduction

Our Theme Passage says in 1 Peter 1:¹⁶, “Because it is written, ***Be ye holy***; for I am holy.”

But does it really mean to Be Holy or Live Holy?

A few years ago, I lost over 35 pounds. It wasn’t from a starvation diet, or a manic exercise routine. I had done those before, and although it worked, because it wasn’t sustainable, I soon put the weight back on.

Unfortunately, this is what many people do when they accept Christ! They go on a Spiritual starvation diet from sin, or a manic Spiritual exercise routine of attending church and/or reading the bible. And because they can’t sustain it, ***“they soon put the weight back on”!***

Now in and of themselves, dieting from sin or exercising church attendance and study are good things; but eventually people realize that they can’t sustain it. They go up and down, in and out.

HOLINESS IS NOT about starving yourself from sin or manically attending church and reading the bible day and night, living the communal life of a monk in a monastery.

Now what I did a few years ago to lose the weight was not to starve myself, but to instead developed a lifestyle change. I learned what to eat and what not to eat, I learn when to eat and when not to eat. I learned how to develop a healthy lifestyle that maintained my weight.

As we stated in our last message, because we live in a world that is hyper-sexualized, hyper-criminalized, and morally bankrupt, we need the power of Holy Spirit with in us so that we can truly experience the joys of life through holiness.

Earlier, I told you what holiness is not, not let me tell you what it is!

HOLINESS IS a Spiritual lifestyle change designed to connect us with God and maintain that connection through the leading of the Holy Spirit. When done properly, it enables us to experience the Joy of the Lord and live a life that Honors, Pleases, and Glorifies God.

Series and Sermon: The Joys of Holiness: The Holiness Lifestyle (Honoring, Pleasing, and Glorifying God)

I. A Lifestyle that Honors God

Proverbs 3: ⁹ Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: ¹⁰ So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

The first lifestyle change we must make concerning holiness is living a life that honors God.

Law enforcement will tell you a main reason for gang violence is someone being disrespected.

Insubordination (disrespect of authority) will get you fired long before incompetence on the job.

A common complaint of men in a troubled marriage is the lack of honor or being disrespected.

And guess what, the King of Kings and Lord of Lord doesn't like disrespect either!

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

The first commandment teaches us that to honor God, we must make him first in our lives. And the thing that most indicates who or what is first in your life is where you put your money!

Matthew 6: ¹⁹ Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: ²⁰ But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: ²¹

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Matthew 6: ²⁴ No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

This is not about taking everything you have and giving it to God or the church, but developing a lifestyle where God is honored as first.

Proverbs 3:9–10 (The Message) Honor God with everything you own; ***give him the first and the best.*** Your barns will burst, your wine vats will brim over.

Simply put, when you honor God with your first, He will give you his best!

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

II. A Lifestyle that Pleases God

2 Chronicles 7: ¹⁴ If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

The next lifestyle change we must make concerning holiness is to live a life that pleases God.

Our holiness churches lost a lot of people because instead of showing new converts how to develop a new lifestyle, we immediately gave them a list of dos, don'ts, cans, and can-nots.

It reminds me of the Old English saying, "You catch more flies with honey than you do with vinegar". Simply put, we can better win them by demonstrating the right things to do than by giving them a bunch of rules about the wrong things they are doing.

In our lesson text, notice that the 6th and last thing that God told his people was to "turn from their wicked ways".

But notice that before he told them what not to do, we did 5 other things on what to do. 1) They were his people; 2) Chosen by him; 3) Be Humble; 4) Pray; and finally, 5) "Seek His Face".

To seek the face of God means to seek or obtain the Favor of God; to do that which pleases him. Before we focus on what God hates, let's learn what God loves!

We need to learn to live a life that pleases God. To do that which God loves; makes him smile!

What does God love? He loves us being his people, so don't just be called, be chosen. He loves humility, so don't be arrogant, be humbled. He loves spending time with us, so don't be idle, pray. And He loves being honored, so don't criticize him, but give thanks and praise Him.

Proverbs 16:⁷ When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.

Psalms 27:4 (AV)⁴ One *thing* have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.

Psalms 34:1-2 (AV)¹ I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth. ² My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear *thereof*, and be glad.

III A Lifestyle that Glorifies God

Romans 8: ¹⁸ For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Holiness is NOT about a Spiritual Starvation from Sin, or a Manic Exercise of Church and Ministry; It's a Lifestyle Change!

- A Lifestyle Change That Honors God by Putting Him First
- A Lifestyle Change That Pleases God by Making Him Smile
- A Lifestyle Change That Glorifies God by Revealing His Glory

The last lifestyle change we must make concerning holiness is to live a life that Glorifies God.

To glorify means to venerate, extol, praise, exalt, worship and adore. And we do this best when we reveal to the world the Glory of God that's within us.

The Glory of God is not revealed through elevation and promotion. The Glory of God is not revealed through the accumulation of money and wealth. The Glory of God is not revealed through satisfaction or gratification. And the Glory of God is not revealed through dominance or authority!

The Glory of God is revealed through suffering! Romans 8:¹⁸ For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

The world shrivels, quits, gives us when they are faced with persecution and suffering, but Holiness changes us so that we reveal the Glory of the God within us!

Romans 8: ¹⁶ The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: ¹⁷ 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.

With Holiness there's a Joy that is revealed through suffering.

- James 1:2–3 (AV)² My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; ³ Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

With Holiness there's an Anointing that is revealed through suffering.

- Isaiah 10:27 (AV)²⁷ And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.

With Holiness there's a Perfection that is revealed through suffering.

- 1 Peter 5:10 (AV)¹⁰ But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle *you*.

With Holiness there's a Glory that is revealed through suffering.

- Romans 8: ¹⁸ **For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.**

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Holiness Lifestyle (Honoring, Pleasing, and Glorifying God))

Lesson Text

- Proverbs 3:9–10, 2 Chronicles 7:14, Romans 8:18

Sermon Outline (Notes)

I. *A Lifestyle that Honors God*

II. *A Lifestyle that Pleases God*

III. *A Lifestyle that Glorifies God*

Questions

I. Getting to Know “Me”

1. What food have you tried to like eating but you just can’t enjoy it? What food have you learned to enjoy eating?
2. What would your best friend say makes you unique?

II. Into the Bible

1. How does our money relate to honoring God? Give scriptural support.
2. According to 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14, What is the Good News Paul is referring to in this scripture? Does this Good News bring us deliverance, preservation, safety, and health instantaneously upon salvation or is it a process? Reference scripture: Ephesians 1:3-5.
3. How does the Spirit make us holy through our belief in the Truth? Is our holiness based upon our actions or our faith in Jesus Christ?

III. Life Application

1. **Reflection:** God loves you so much! He wants you to rest in His love and allow His Holy Spirit to produce a wonderful lifestyle change in you. Discuss the ways God shows us He loves us even when our lifestyles don’t measure up.
2. **Action:** We take care of others by taking care of ourselves FIRST. How will you make YOU a priority in 2020? Create your plan of action and stick to it!