

**In A Manner Pleasing**  
Bible Study – 03/16/05

Lev. 11:44...I am the Lord your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy.

**Man's highest duty is to imitate his creator!** Five times in Leviticus God says, "*Be holy, for I am holy*" (11:44-45, 19:2, 20:7, 26). Forty five times He says, "*I am the Lord,*" or "*I am the Lord your God.*" One of the most important theses in the book is God's call for His people to be holy. Jesus echoed the theme when He said; "*You shall be perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect*" (Matt. 5:48). As we read that 11<sup>th</sup> chapter of Leviticus we need to remember that we are special to God and are to "*proclaim the praises of Him Who called us out of darkness [sin] into His marvelous light [holiness]*" (1 Peter 2:9).

**Essential??**

Heb. 12:14...Strive for (make every effort) peace with all men and holiness; without holiness no one will see the Lord!

True scriptural holiness has never been popular with the masses. Not only does our present generation seem woefully ignorant of this basic scriptural doctrine and experience, most of the religions of the world are blinded to this requirement of God without which no man will see Him! People begin to squirm when contemplating the holy, pure life. It's too close to the "holier than thou" syndrome and seems to signify all the "don'ts" we don't want to hear. Also, we are all too familiar with "holy people" who have become zealots and who retreat from normal life. Scripture assures us that this is not holiness! (2 Cor. 2:18...we are to be to God the fragrance of Christ!)

God's redemptive scheme is holy. **Every requirement of God is in harmony with His holy nature.** God cannot permit into His immediate presence anything contrary to His holy nature!

Habakkuk 1:13...The Holy God is a wholly clean God. He has no dirty smudges on His character. Nothing can taint His purity. The prophet says, "Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong."

**Purity of Life obviously is a prerequisite to full communion with God!**

Matt. 5:8...Blessed are the pure (holy) in heart for they shall see God.

Holiness begins quietly in the heart where a decision is made. Next comes the strengthening of resolve through a study of the scriptures. Holiness must be practiced daily...hourly.

1 Thess. 4:7...God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.

## God Makes It Easy

John 14:9...Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father. He is our example for holiness!

1 John 3:2-3...We know that when He appears we shall be like Him...and everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Consider what we have just read. When He comes for His church, those who will go to be with Him are those who are like Him! Since He is the personal embodiment of God who is Holy, then if we are to be like Him...we must be holy. And...**everyone who has the hope of seeing him purifies himself as he is pure!** Jesus is our example of holiness, our “source” of holiness (2 Cor. 5:21...He took our sin and gave us His righteousness!)

## The Desires Of A Pure Heart

A pure heart has one overwhelming desire... to serve and please God! Holiness does not remove creative powers nor cripple productive energy. A sanctified (holy) person should be able to perform better, work harder, to be more dependable and productive. ***There is no conflict between holiness and legitimate ambition!***

Holiness removes ambition based on selfish motivation. Holiness eliminates the carnal manipulation of people for selfish purposes. Holiness removes the carnal jockeying for position and the sinful desire for praise and adulation. Holiness purifies our motives. Holiness separates spiritual progress from personal promotion. Holiness will not buy popularity at the expense of convictions. Holiness is freedom from sin and from sinful, selfish ambition. Holiness seeks “first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.”

## Holiness Is A Choice

Eph. 5:8, 10-11...Walk as children of light...finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

Two friends were talking about a movie that one of them had seen. As he began to describe the film, he characterized it like this: “You wouldn’t want to take your pastor to watch it with you.” An example of the standards we set for ourselves. We allow ourselves to view, hear, or participate in things that we know are not proper for us as followers of Christ. But if an activity is not appropriate for those whom we expect to be godly (church leaders, for instance), how can it be okay for us? Or, if it has the elements that would be harmful for young people to take part in, then why should we?

If we are committed to living as God has called us to live, we will strive to find out what is “acceptable to the Lord”...And...we will **“have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them”** (v. 11). The question: **Will it please the Lord?**

2 Cor. 7:1...(God has just made a powerful commitment to His people – 2 Cor. 6:16-18)...Since we have these promises...let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, **perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.**