

Holiness

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I. Introduction.

- A. Holiness is accompanied by happiness and wholeness. (1 Peter 1:15-16)
- B. God is infinitely and absolutely holy. (1 John 1:5)
- C. God has called every Christian to be holy.
- D. Holiness is conformity to the moral character of God.
- E. Someday we will be absolutely holy like God. (Ephesians 1:3)
- F. We were created to be like Christ. It is also our responsibility. (Ephesians 4:22)
- G. There are five irreducible minimums for holiness.

II. Convictions.

- A. We must get our convictions out of the Bible. (2 Timothy 3:16; Ephesians 5:17)
 - 1. The Bible is very practical.
 - 2. The Bible trains us. (Hebrews 12)
- B. We must be in the Scriptures daily.

III. Commitment.

- A. A belief is what you hold. A commitment holds you.
- B. We must make a commitment not to sin. (1 John 2:1)
- C. We must resolve ourselves to make certain commitments in specific temptation as well. (Job 31:1)

IV. Choices.

- A. Every day we are confronted with the choice to say no to temptation and yes to God. (Titus 2:11-12)
- B. Saying no requires discipline. (1 Timothy 4:7)
- C. It is possible to train ourselves in every direction. (2 Peter 2:14)
- D. You are going to be what you are now becoming.
- E. Even though we are weak in natural selves, there is hope. (Romans 6:19)

V. Dependence.

- A. The Spirit does the changing. (2 Corinthians 3:18; Psalm 119:9-16, 36-37)
- B. There is a mutual working of us and God. (1 Peter 1:21)
- C. God does not short-circuit our personality in making us holy—he works through it.

VI. Desires.

- A. So often our motivation for holiness is self-centered. Many are more vexed about self-esteem than the holiness of God. (Matthew 5:21)
- B. We should be holy out of a desire to please God and because of his love. (Revelation 4:11)

Application questions:

1. How will you go about gaining and affirming your convictions this week?

2. What are some wrong ways to go about growing in holiness?

3. Why does our motivation matter when we are considering holiness? Explain.
