

Godliness

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Titus 2:11ff.
- B. Godliness is the highest compliment that can be paid to a Christian.
- C. We must train ourselves to be godly. (1 Timothy 4:7-8, 6:6, 11)

II. Godliness means a devotion to God which results in a life that is pleasing to God. (Genesis 5:22-24; Hebrews 11, 6:5)

- A. God is the center of the godly person's life which results in God-like character.
- B. We can train ourselves to be godly.

III. Let's discuss three essential elements of devotion to God.

A. The fear of God is the soul of godliness.

- 1. The literal fear of God's wrath belongs to unbelievers.
- 2. As Christians, we should have a healthy respect for the discipline of God. But even more, we should have a sense of awe and honor as we gaze upon God. (Acts 9:31ff; Revelation 1:10ff)

a) Though God is our Father, we must keep in mind that He is God and all together "other" from us.

b) We must live in the legitimate tension of the reverence of God and boldness before Him as our Father. (Romans 8:15; Isaiah 11:1-3)

B. A comprehension of the love of God for us compels us to live for Him. (2 Corinthians 5:14-15)

- 1. God is the essence of love demonstrated through Christ's sacrifice. (1 John 4:8ff)
- 2. God's love cleanses our sin and allows us to come to Him with boldness. (Hebrews 10:19; Hebrews 2:11; Zechariah 3)
- 3. When we understand God's love for us, it impels us to live for Him. (Ephesians 3)

C. The desire for God Himself flows from our awe of Him and His love for us. (Psalm 42:1)

- 1. We will desire to contemplate the beauty of God's character. (Psalm 27:4)
- 2. Godliness comes from a hunger and thirst for God, built on the fear of God and God's love for us. (Isaiah 26:8-9)

IV. There are several practical ways that we can grow in our devotion to God.

A. Grow in the awe of God by meditating frequently on several passages of scripture that describe the majesty of God. (Psalm 139; Isaiah 40; Revelation 1, 4, 5)

B. Grow in your understanding of God's love at Calvary by meditating on several passages of scripture that describe it. (1 John 4:3-10; Isaiah 53; Romans 5:6-8; Romans 8:32)

C. Ask God to give you a desire for Him. (Philippians 3:10)

V. From this devotion to God arises God-like character. (Galatians 5:22-23)

A. Devotion to God is the only acceptable motive for conduct that is pleasing to God.

B. The power for godly character flows out of your relationship with God. (John 15:4-5; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 1 Corinthians 13)

C. Though the power is from God, the responsibility for developing godly character is ours. (1 Timothy 4:7)

D. Godly character is both negative and positive. We must both put away sin in our lives and put on godly character. (Ephesians 4:22-24)

E. God-like character is balanced.

Application questions:

1. Where does an awe of God come from? What produces awe of God in our hearts?

2. How does an understanding of God's love motivate us to live in a way that pleases Him?

3. How can we cultivate a desire for God Himself in our lives through our daily habits?
