

Personal Holiness

Helene Ashker

I. Introduction

- A. We don't hear much about God's holiness today.
- B. Jesus has been humanized.
 - 1. He is referred to as buddy or pal in songs.
 - 2. His awesomeness and holiness are overlooked.
- C. In the Old Testament, there was a fear of using God's name.
- D. Today we do the opposite.
- E. We think God's holiness is unattainable.
- F. Yet we are commanded to be holy. (1 Peter 1:15)
- G. Definition of holiness: being set apart for God's exclusive use.

II. God's holiness in the Old Testament was consistently revealed in the Temple.

- A. God dwelt there. (1 Kings 8:27)
- B. God met man there.
- C. Sacrifice and reconciliation to God took place there.
- D. Worship took place there. (1 Kings 8:22-23)
- E. The purpose of the Temple was for God's exclusive use.
- F. An example of idolatry in the Temple. (Ezekiel 8)
 - 1. God's presence did not leave.
 - 2. God was provoked to jealousy.

III. What is the Temple equivalent today?

- A. The Triune God dwells in believers. (1 Corinthians 6:19, John 14:16-17, 23)
- B. The presence of the Triune God sanctifies our bodies.
- C. This should influence:

1. How we dress.
2. Our body English (language).
3. Our countenance.

D. Absolutely everything connected with the body is relevant to God because it represents God.

E. Is God comfortable in our Temple?

1. Is He competing with idols?
2. How much control does He have?
3. He deserves for us to present our bodies as living sacrifices because it is His Temple. (Romans 12:1-2)
4. Our bodies should be set apart for His exclusive use.

F. Our bodies/His Temple is a place of reconciliation.

1. We often sin in our minds.
2. We can simply confess within our hearts to the Lord and be immediately cleansed.

G. What are some things that contaminate our Temple?

1. External influences such as:
 - a) Movies
 - b) Books
 - c) Magazines
 - d) TV
2. Internal issues, such as greed, have two main categories:
 - a) Besetting sins – we know about them, confess them over and over, and they discourage us.
 - b) Blind spots – areas of sin everyone else sees, but us. (Psalm 19:12, 51:6)

H. Idols we can have.

1. Performance
2. Status
3. Acceptance

4. Significance
5. Titles and position
6. Critical and complaining spirit
7. Myself

IV. How can I become holy?

- A. Be single minded.
- B. Have an increased sensitivity to sin.
 1. Do we react to sin like Isaiah did in Isaiah 6?
 2. It is a lifetime process to clean the Temple.
- C. Take a look at your motivations. (Psalm 139:23-24)

V. Conclusion

- A. Holiness is possible for the Christian.
- B. We can be set apart for God's exclusive use by an act of our will.
- C. Assignment.
 1. What idols in my Temple provoke God to jealousy?
 2. List the idols.
 3. Make a choice.
 4. Change thought patterns.
 5. Confess to keep Temple clean.
 6. Commit to be a holy woman.