Holiness – Part 3
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I. Introduction.

A. God gives us rich things to enjoy. To determine whether we should eat food nor not, we should ask whether we can thank God in the act. (Genesis 3:6; 1 Timothy 6:17; 4:3)

B. There is a tendency to allow sin to reign in our lives, but God wants us to pursue holiness. (Romans 6:12-13, 19; 1 Corinthians 6:13, 19-20; 9:27)

II. Godly appetites have become perverted through sin. We are not to gratify these desires. (1 Corinthians 9:27; Romans 13:14; James 1:14)

A. We must cut these desires off immediately before they gain a stronghold. (2 Timothy 2:22)

B. We must pursue righteousness.

C. We must hide from temptations. (Proverbs 27:12)

III. We must bring our thought life under control. (Philippians 4:13; Romans 6:19; 12:1)

A. The Spirit most often appeals to us through our minds.

B. The Devil most often appeals to us through our desires.

IV. The Christian life is not a do it yourself religion. Our pursuit of holiness would be useless without faith and the Holy Spirit.

A. Faith is assurance of what is hoped for and a conviction of things not seen. It looks forward to what is unseen and backwards to what God accomplished. (Hebrews 11:3)

B. We have died to sin, so sin can no longer reign in us. (Romans 6:11-12)

C. We have everything we need for the pursuit of holiness. Our responsibility to make every effort is grounded in what God has given us. (2 Peter 1:3-4; Philippians 2:12; Galatians 5:16)

V. Motivation comes from the love of Christ and our love for him. (1 John 3; 2 Corinthians 5:14; Genesis 39; John 14:21)
Application questions:

1. What are some tips for managing your “appetites”?

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2. How can one effectively control his or her thought life as a Christian?

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3. How can you foster more motivation to live the Christian life?

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