

Challenge of Holiness

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Ephesians 4:17.

II. We should no longer live as society is living and put on Christ's character.

A. Many suppress the truth about ethics, such as sexual responsibilities. (Isaiah 5:20)

B. Living a holy life is not another option for Christians. (Titus 2:11-12)

C. We are to make every effort to live a holy life. (2 Peter 1:5)

D. Holiness is being like God in his moral character.

E. We must put away the traits of our ungodly lives, put on Christ-like character and be renewed in our minds. (Romans 12:2)

1. The renewing of our minds makes all this function.

2. The challenge of holiness is not simply to put off the bad—it is to put on the fruit of the Spirit. (Galatians 5)

III. We must work hard and do something useful so that we may have something to give.

A. We have to make a choice whether we are going to be honest or not.

B. Attitudes towards possession.

1. What is yours is mine.

2. What is mine is mine (this attitude is most common among us).

3. What is mine is yours.

IV. We should only put on what is helpful for building up the other person.

V. There should be no hint of sexual immorality.

VI. Thanksgiving is indicative of living consciously in the presence of God. Thanksgiving is an expression of gratefulness and a recognition of our dependence upon God. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

VII. Conclusion.

Application questions:

1. Why is the renewal of our minds the hinge of putting off the old life and putting on the new?

2. How can we develop an attitude of hard work for the sake of blessing others?

3. What are some ways you can encourage yourself to be more thankful moment by moment?
