

Excellence in Ministry – Part 3

Cynthia Heald

I. Pursue holiness.

- A. Christian standards.
- B. Satan's attack.
- C. A wise person observes and learns. (Proverbs 24:30)
- D. As obedient children be holy. (1 Peter 1:15-16)
- E. Never stop pursuing holiness.
- F. Be blameless. (Philippians 1:10)
- G. Holiness should be our lifestyle.
- H. Deeper call to holiness the way God defines it.
- I. The narrow path.

II. Make pre-decisions.

A. Relationship with other men.

- 1. Do not be alone with another man.
 - a. Avoid every appearance of evil. (1 Thessalonians 24)
 - b. Invite someone else.
 - c. Leave the door open.
- 2. Hug from the side.
- 3. Emotional adultery.
 - a. Do not allow impure thoughts to take over our mind.

B. Speech.

- 1. No coarse speech. (Ephesians 5:3-4)
- 2. Influence of television.
- 3. Guard our speech. (Ephesians 4:29)

C. Dress.

1. Pleasing to God.
2. Discrete.
3. Modest.
4. Pure.

D. Activities

1. Definition of sin.
2. Maintain tenderness of your conscience.
3. What are your standards? (1 Corinthians 6:12)

III. Keep excellence in Ministry.

A. Set your mind to pursue holiness.

1. Decision.
2. What is your mindset. (Romans 8:5-8)
3. In Christ we have a choice to serve righteousness.
4. Sin in you must be put to death.

B. Guard your heart with all diligence. (Proverbs 4:23)

1. Stop the things that should not be coming in to your life. (2 Corinthians 10)
2. Do not entertain or host impure thoughts.

C. Put on the armor of God.

1. Sword of the Spirit.
 - a. Only offensive weapon.
 - b. Word of God. (Psalm 119:9, 11)
 - c. Memorize Scripture so you will not sin.

D. Be accountable to others. (2 Timothy 2:22)

1. Needs to be another woman.
2. Meet.
3. Talk.
4. Pray.

E. Avoid busyness.

F. Spend time with the Lord.

IV. Trust God and pray consistently.

A. What is my purpose?

1. Willingly submit to the process God has chosen to make me like Christ. (Romans 8:29)

B. Joseph's example.

1. Enslaved.

2. Imprisoned.

3. Tested.

C. Concept from John 15.

1. No fruit.

a. Chastise.

1) Pray to recognize sin in your life.

2. Fruit.

a. Prune.

1) Accept and respond.

2) God's responsibility.

3. More fruit.

a. Abide.

1) Our responsibility.

4. Much fruit.

D. Examples from Cynthia's life.

1. Whose life is it?

2. Do not presume on the will of God. (Psalm 19)

3. Not following God's will. (Deuteronomy 1:42-43)

4. Presumption defined.

5. Pray before you answer.

6. Trust God and pray. (Psalm 19:13)