

“. . . those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, And the LORD listened and heard them . . . whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”

1. Holiness has many benefits, but, of paramount importance, it cements our relationship with God. Without it, no one can commune with God.

Pursue . . . holiness, without which no one will see the Lord . . . (Hebrews 12:14)

2. Holiness is also commanded. God has always required that His people be holy.

'You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.'
(Leviticus 19:2)

but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy." (1Peter 1:15, 16)

3. What is holiness? Fundamentally, holiness means existing in an acceptable condition as defined by God. It literally means being set apart for and to God. If one is holy, then one has the character and identity required to be intimately related to God. That is, a pure and spotless heart and life, separated from everything that is sinful and incompatible with God.

4. What is the origin of holiness? Holiness originates with God. God has always existed in a state of holiness. This includes being absolutely perfect, faultless, pure, and majestic above everyone else. He is a completely distinctive and unique Supreme Being, separated from all beings below Him. Even His dwelling place is supremely holy.

"No one is holy like the LORD, For there is none besides You . . ." (1Samuel 2:2)

For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place . . ." (Isaiah 57:15)

5. If holiness originates with God, how can we obtain it? Of crucial importance is this – no one can generate his or her own state of holiness. Sinners cannot generate holiness. It can only be obtained from God. He has to grant it to us voluntarily.

6. Is this fair? God commands us to be holy, yet, holiness has to be granted to us by Him. God has a loving and precious plan for those who seek to be holy. Before we consider this, let's review the Biblical terms used for holiness. Besides the synonyms *washed, cleaned, perfected* and *purify*, the main terms used for holiness are the equivalent Latin or English derived words noted here.

<u>Latin</u>	<u>English</u>
Saint	Holy One
Sacred	Holy
Sanctify	Make Holy
Sanctified	Made Holy
Sanctification	Holiness
Sanctuary	Holy Place
Consecrate	Dedicate to be Holy

7. God's Complete Plan for Our Holiness. God desires to share His lovingkindnesses and His perfect world with us. This requires that we obtain an acceptable state of holiness. He is personally involved with us each step of the way.

A. He planned for our holiness before our birth!

just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love . . . (Ephesians 1:4)

B. All three Persons of the Divine Godhead have their responsibilities in granting us holiness.

• **Our Heavenly Father's role:**

To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father . . . (Jude 1:1)

• **Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ's role:**

Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. (Hebrews 13:12)

• **The Holy Spirit's role:**

God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth . . . (2Thessalonians 2:13)

C. Jesus Christ's death and resurrection are the keys to our holiness. We need a Savior! Our Triune God knows that our fallen state of sinfulness prevents us from generating a holy condition of absolute purity. Instead of rejecting us sinners, thankfully, God's loving nature grants holiness-sanctification through the power of the sacrificial death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, to those sinners who put their trust in Him as their Lord and Savior.

. . . He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God" . . . By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all . . . But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God . . . (Hebrews 10:9, 10, 12)

D. Putting our faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior triggers our holiness by solving both the effects and costs of our sins and our sinful nature. All of the following points have to be solved before holiness can be granted to us. Jesus Christ's sacrifice led to all this:

- A. Solving the Effects of Our Sins
- Remission / forgiveness of sins
 - Sin's penalty redeemed
 - Guilt absolved
 - Conscience cleared
 - Declared righteous / just
- B. Solving Our Sinful Nature
- Old nature / self crucified
 - Spiritual rebirth
 - New nature / self granted
 - New heart & spirit provided
 - Spiritual unity with God

E. The benefits of believing in Jesus Christ are stupendous! What Jesus Christ did for us on Calvary as listed in D results in this -> when sinners accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior they are immediately awarded a positional state of holiness so that they can commune with God. He removes all our barriers that prevented our fellowshiping with Him. Believers have a new life!
And such were some of you. But you were washed,

but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. (1Corinthians 6:11)

. . . if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation . . . (2Corinthians 5:17)

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me . . . (Galatians 2:20)

"You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you." (John 15:3)

. . . and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. (1John 1:3)

F. Although all believers in Jesus Christ are awarded a positional state of holiness to reconnect us with God, manifesting this holiness is a whole different matter. Jesus Christ expresses these two facets of holiness.

For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. (Heb 10:14)

Also, Apostle Paul explains that at salvation we have been given something that we must express!

Therefore, my beloved . . . work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. (Philippians 2:12, 13)

F. These last two verses above clearly identify two aspects of our holiness. Being awarded a positional state of holiness with God at salvation does not mean that we immediately think, speak and act in holy ways. Manifesting our holiness is a Christian's life work! Here is a summary:

Two Aspects of Holiness:

First, holiness is granted at salvation = Authorized & Positional Holiness

Second, holiness is expressed in life = Applied & Practical Holiness

G. Both aspects of holiness require God's personal involvement. Manifesting our holiness is totally dependent on our choices, dedication and our cooperation with God.

'Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am the LORD your God. 'And you shall keep My statutes, and perform them: I am the LORD who sanctifies you. (Leviticus 20:7, 8)

For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. (Heb 10:14)

By CJS