



Redemption Through the Scriptures

Oakland International Fellowship

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Determined to Share His Holiness

“Power is God’s hand or arm, omniscience His eye, mercy His bowels, eternity His duration, but holiness is his beauty”
(S. Charnock)

A. Holiness is a Divine Privilege.

- “And by that will (God’s), we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” (Heb. 10:10)

God commands it: calling His children to perfect obedience

- “I am the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore and be holy, for I am holy. You shall not make yourselves unclean with any of the swarming things that swarm the earth. For I am the Lord who brought you up from the land of Egypt, to be your God; thus you shall be holy, for I am holy.” (Lev. 11:44-45)
“You shall consecrate yourselves therefore and be holy, for I am the Lord your God. Keep my decrees and follow them. I am the Lord, who sanctifies you.” (Lev. 20:7, 8)

Because God is Holy, His children are called to be holy:

- 1) Reflecting **God’s character** in us;
- 2) Regenerated by **His purity, His righteousness, His goodness;** and
- 3) Revealing **His irrefutable, irresistible redeeming grace.**

The doing of this is NOT by mere human effort

God’s Redemptive work in Jesus Christ reveals that God has purchased His people at a great price. Those who are His children are eternally adopted, bought with a price, the price of the shed blood of His Son. With the benefits of Jesus Christ’s death on the cross now applied to our lives, God’s Spirit sets us apart, having been made holy so that we may grow in holiness.

B. Holiness is Divine Process.

- “Because by one sacrifice he (Jesus Christ) has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.” (Heb. 10:14) (Jesus Christ appointed as our unique high priest was sacrificed for sin once for all)

It manifests God’s glory: through a life-long process of sanctification

As God cultivates holiness in our lives, we are set apart in a restoration process. This is expressly so that the glory of God may be increasingly demonstrated in the world by those who follow Christ Jesus. Like the moon does from the sun, the church is to imitate His goodness, as we learn to reflect God’s moral character in our actions and in our inner attitudes, the contemplations and inclinations of the heart.

“May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.” (1 Thess. 3:13)

“... He disciplines us for our good, that we may share in His holiness.” (Hebrews 12:10b).

C. Holiness is a Noble Responsibility

- “Since we have these promises, dear friends, **let us purify ourselves** from everything that contaminates body and spirit, **perfecting holiness** out of reverence for God.” (1 Cor. 7:1)

It brings increasing benefit: a result of healthy godly discipline

Holiness evokes a desire **to worship**, a desire **to glorify** the Holy One; yet it is rightly combined **with wholesome fear** of Him as well. That is why the angels of God proclaim the glory of God profusely, day and night (Rev. 4:8) as they bow before God’s throne. In regard to holiness, the virtues of greatness, goodness, righteousness and justice all converge. And as God cultivates holiness in our lives, we learn to cooperate with Him. Step by step we approach God in reverence. Our strength comes from the Holy Spirit within, but we grow in obedience and discipline as God brings forth His glorious purpose to make us share in His holiness.

“... **you shall be holy, for I am Holy**” (1 Peter 1:15-16)-- quoting from Lev.

D. Holiness is to be shared

As the people of God grow in grace His people learn what it means to share in His holiness.

1. The early fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob learned trust and obedience as they were transformed into the nation Israel by the sanctifying power of God’s holiness (Genesis).
2. The mass slave exodus from Egypt, with 40 years wandering in the wilderness, reveals God’s consistent call to have his people live lives that meet His holy standard (Exodus & Numbers)
3. Moses wrote down regulations that reveal the need for a deep reverence of God as holy. (Leviticus & Deuteronomy)
4. The prophet Isaiah declared his lost, sinful state when exposed in the holy presence of God (Isa. 6).
5. The prophet Ezekiel fell to the ground on his face when encountering the vision of God (Ezek. 1).
6. God brought the Jews back from the nations where they had been scattered, and gave them a new spirit and put a new heart in them: removing the heart of stone and putting in them a heart of flesh (Ezek 36:26). Why? ... in order to vindicate the holiness of His name (Ezek. 36:20-23).

“Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but **for the sake of my holy name**, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone. **I will show the holiness of my great name**, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have profaned among them. Then the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Sovereign Lord, **when I show myself holy** through you before their eyes.’” (Ezek. 36:20-23)

It is the only perfection of God that is given triple repetition.

We are called to share in God’s holiness by being holy, by becoming holy, and by perfecting the experience of the holiness of God in our daily lives. The N.T. church is set apart in holiness to bring Him honor and glory in all that we are and all that we do.

Discussion Questions:

1. Discuss how Holiness can be both a finished reality, and yet still an uncompleted process.
 2. Each one share a practical way in which the holiness of God should affect the way we live and worship.
- “Who will not **fear** you, O Lord, and **glorify** your name? **For you are Holy!** All nations will come and **worship** you, for **your righteous acts have been revealed.**” (Rev. 15:4)