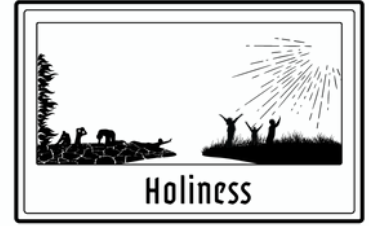


LIFE IN THE KINGDOM

21. HOLINESS

When we hear about holiness, the first thing that comes to mind is not sinning. However, this actually goes far beyond not sinning. The Hebrew word for holy is "Root", that means to be set apart, sanctified, consecrated and dedicated, that is, being separated from the world and its culture.

To be holy is to be set apart for a divine purpose, that is, **not sinning is the result of being holy and not the other way around**. To be holy is to understand that God, our Heavenly Father, is unique and that He is not like anyone else, and that He wants us to adopt His way of thinking. This is living the way He designed it for us from the beginning: surrendered to His authority. This is the culture of the Kingdom of heaven.



Holiness, or rather sanctification, is a process through which every day we must be renewed in our way of thinking, in how we conceive situations to be transformed more and more into the image and likeness of Jesus, until we reach its same level.

This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

Ephesians 4:13 NLT

Holiness is a process, it does not happen automatically and depends on our willingness to be transformed. Maturity, that is, spiritual growth (sanctification) depends entirely on allowing the Holy Spirit to live in and through us. He is not going to do it without our determination and surrender. There are several aspects that we must take into account:

- Holiness begins with our thoughts, our way of thinking. Before we see a real transformation in our life, it must occur in our mind

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Romans 12:2 NTV

- The only way to renew our way of thinking is through his Word; this is living by **FAITH**:

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

Romans 10:17 NTV

- Holiness is directly proportional to health. We need to heal the broken heart and cleanse it of all impurity, as we understand His Word:

Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

2 Timothy 2:21 NIV

- This process of sanctification or separation occurs by revelation, by humiliation or by crushing. If we resist what is revealed to us by reading or listening to His Word, a process of humiliation will come so that we can surrender any arrogant argument that arises against what God says. If we still do not give up, a grinding process will follow until our way of thinking about that particular issue changes, transforming the way we react and act as well:

We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. 5 We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 NLT

- Without holiness, it is impossible to see God work in our lives. We "tie God's hands" when we do not understand that we were created for something different, and we remain trapped in the same thing we were in before we met him. "Others may, you may not."

Work at living in peace with everyone, and work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord.

Hebrews 12:14 NLT

- Sanctification is living separated from the culture of the world to be increasingly set apart to live, think, feel, and obey the culture of the Kingdom.

Study Questions:

1. To be holy is to be separated, but separated for what?
2. What is the result of being holy?
3. It is one thing to be holy, another thing to be healthy. But how are the two related? Is it possible to live a life of holiness with a wounded, resentful and bitter heart? Why yes, or why not?

