

# HOLINESS

“And a highway will be there; it will be called the way of holiness. The unclean will not journey on it; it will be for those who walk in that way; wicket fools will not go about on it” (ISAIAH 35:8).

- God loves us and wants us to live holy lives.
  - Right through Jesus living as a man on the earth He gave the example of holiness.
  - The word holy is the Hebrew word “gadosh” that has a strong meaning: to be devoted or dedicated to a particular purpose.
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- Jesus is holy!
  - John recorded that heavens proclaim, ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come’ (REV. 4:8b).
  - Yet holy is a word that we may use without thinking about its meaning.
  - Holy means to be set apart, completely separate from and above all else.
  - To us, Jesus is the very definition of what holiness is; his way is perfect “As for God His way is perfect...” (PSALM 18:30).
  - Believers are the chosen people of Holy God, set apart for Him “We are his holy nation, a royal priesthood, serving and dedicated to the glory of Sovereign God” (1 PET. 2:9-10).
  - The above scripture in Isaiah says that His way is a highway of holiness.
  - For the first time in history over half of the world’s population lives in or near a city.
  - So for missionaries today, it is much easier than year’s back, to reach the people.
  - It can look so civilized for us, but still a lot of the people are not reborn Christian believers yet.
  - It is necessary for us to reach all the people, like Jesus says.
  - But in the times that we are living, the world and worldly system become darker and darker.
  - So we have to become Christ like.
  - God don’t want to work through unclean lives.
  - Through Jesus’ relationship with us, we are called to be like him, to be holy as he is holy.
  - The lives of believers are based on a relationship with Jesus.
  - Holiness is God’s requirement for relationship.
  - Because of sin, our ways can even seem right in our own eyes, but the result of our ways will be destruction.
  - Because Jesus is holy, we cannot stand in His presence without dealing with our sin.
  - Psalm 24:4-6 explains that the one who can go up to His holy place is “He who has clean hands and a pure heart, which does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false. He will receive blessing from the Lord and vindication from God his

Savior. Such is the generation of those who seek Him, who seek your face, O God of Jacob”.

- The one who can go up to His holy place has to meet God’s standard of holiness.
- The result is that when he does he will receive both blessing and acquittal from God, his judge.
- This is the nature of every generation of those who seek the Lord.
- They will reflect and honor His holiness, as He himself transforms their lives.
- He can also bless and vindicate the lost that He will reach through His people, His highway of holiness.
- The concept of God’s holiness shaping believers’ lives is references again and again in the New Testament.
- Jesus said in His Sermon on the Mount, “Blessed is the pure heart, for they will see God” (MATT. 5:8).
- Peter said. ‘But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written “Be holy, for I am holy”’ (1 PET. 1:15-16).
- Peter was quoting Leviticus 11:44-45, 19:2 and 20:7 as he repeated the Father’s command that His people become like Him.
- This was one of those key times for God’s people to be holy.
- God was marshaling them to be His highway across the Roman Empire.
- If they had not followed this way of God, they would not only have failed Him, but they would have also failed all those whom God wanted to use them to reach.
- Sin in our lives is the antithesis of holiness and cancels our usefulness for God’s purposes “But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear” (ISAIAH 59:2).
- God’s holiness is not mocked.
- He will not answer those who will not love and obey His standard of righteousness.
- One can see the holiness right threw in Jesus’ message.
- “And He said also unto His disciples, there was a certain rich man, who had a steward; and the same was accused unto him that he had wasted his goods. And he called him, and said unto him, how is it that I hear this of thee? Give an account of thy stewardship; for thou Mayes be no longer steward” (LUKE. 16:1-2).
- This parable is striking in that it uses the conduct of an unjust man to give instruction to good men.
- This is not the only parable of this nature.
- Another parable which illustrates a similar idea is that of the Unjust Judge.
- To some it is a matter of surprise and perplexity that the Lord would illustrate a spiritual truth through the actions of a bad man.
- At first thought it is conduct of a person who is glaringly dishonest.
- Indeed, after reading about the plotting of this faithless servant we have revulsion of feeling, and this revulsion is a natural consequence of studying the teaching of Christ Himself.
- It is interesting to note that the parable follows immediately after the story of the Prodigal Son.
- The prodigal wasted his substance, while the unjust steward wasted his master’s good.
- When we read, “and He said also unto His disciples”, it appears that there is some continuity between the two as if it were a continuance of the same discourse.
- Jesus began the parable by speaking of a certain steward who was accused of wasting his master’s goods.

- Stewardship represents the relation of all of us to God.
- We are stewards of our Lord's goods.
- Ownership does not rest with us; nevertheless, we have opportunity to make use of our Lord's property with the implicit understanding that we use it in a way that will be to the Lord's interest.
- There must be holiness in it.
- What did Jesus mean by saying in this parable that the children of this world are wiser in their generation than the children of light?
- He simply meant that they are wiser as far as this generation is concerned.
- They handle their affairs on the average more skillfully than believers.
- Of course, they are wise from the standpoint of their generation or their lifetime.
- As for their gross disregard of their lot in eternity, their folly is infinite.
- Jesus said the worldly rich are fools.
- Still Jesus would have His people wise not only in the things of the world to come, but wise enough for both worlds.
- Naturally this does not mean that they would act as the unjust stewards, for then they would no longer be children of light.
- But what Jesus meant was that Christians should conduct their affairs with prudence and in such a way in this world as to lay up a store of treasure in the world to come.
- Jesus Christ walks on this earth as a human being, being the "anointed one"
- The word Christ is the Greek form of the Hebrew word "Messiah", which means literally, "the anointed one".
- The word is suggested by the practice of anointing with oil as a symbol of divine consecration into office, the title "Anointed" was applied particularly to the kings of Israel who ruled as Jehovah's representatives.
- "So David said to him, 'How was it you were not afraid to put forth your hand to destroy the Lord's anointed?'"(2 SAM. 1:14)
- In some cases the symbol of the anointing was followed by the spiritual reality, so that the person became in a living sense the anointed of the Lord.
- "In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; now this is His Name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS" (JER. 23:6).
- Unlike that of David His reign would be everlasting, and under His ways should come all nations.
- This was the Anointed, or the Messiah, or the Christ, and upon Him were centered the hopes of Israel.
- The people among whom Jesus was to minister looked forward to Messiah's coming, but unfortunately their hopes were colored by political stress.
- They were expecting a "strong man", who should be a combination of soldier and statesman.
- Would Jesus be that kind of Messiah?
- The Spirit led Him into the wilderness to fight the issue out with satan,<sup>1</sup> who craftily suggested that He adopt the popular form and so take a short and easy way to power. "Meet their material cravings," suggested the tempter.
- Jesus scrupulously kept Himself from entanglement in the contemporary political situation.

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<sup>1</sup> Take note that the name of satan and related names are not capitalized. I choose not to acknowledge him, even to the point of violating grammatical rules.

- At times He forbade those healed by Him to broadcast His fame lest His ministry be misunderstood as a stirring of the people against Rome.
- His success was turned into a charge against Him. He deliberately refused to head a popular movement.
- He forbade the public proclamation of His Messiahship and the testimony to His transfiguration lest false hopes be raised among the people.
- The certainly did not see Him as the one to head their economic, military, and political program, as they thought the Messiah should be.
- The nation as a whole did not connect His spiritual ministry with the thought of the Messiah.
- That He was an able teacher, a mighty preacher and even a prophet, they freely admitted.
- They did not understand it in that time.
- Still up to today some people don't see the importance of Jesus' coming to the earth to come and identify with man, life and walk here, and went through the suffering and death for us, so that we could live.
- But His lifestyle threw all the 33 years of Him being in a human body, was to us an example of holiness.
- In His preaching,; His fellowship with people; His handling the sick and crippled; the demon possessed; and even the way He related to the little children, was of excellence, humility, love, compassion and holiness.
- That example of Him was for us, so that we can know.
- Moses already recognize the Holiness of the Lord "Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness? Fearful in praises, doing wonders?" (EXO. 15:11).
- Jesus wears a crown of holiness, it was already foretell in EXO. 39:30 "Then they made the plate of the holy crown of pure gold, and wrote on it an instruction like the engraving of a signet: HOLINESS TO THE LORD".
- David understand the concept "Give unto the Lord glory the glory due to His Name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness" (PSALM. 29:2).
- His Name is holy "Sing praise to the Lord, you saints of His, and give thanks at the remembrance of His Holy Name" (PSALM. 30:4).
- Jesus is in His Holy court waiting for us to get ready and holy "But those who have gathered it shall eat it, and praise the Lord; those who have brought it together shall drink it in My Holy Courts" (ISAIAH. 62:9).
- When He talks to you, when you come into His presence, you know you stand before a Holy King "My heart within me is broken because of the prophets; all my bones shake. I am like a drunken man, and like a man whom wine has overcome, because of the Lord, and because of HIS HOLY WORDS" (JER. 23:9).
- Where there is holiness, deliverance take place "But on Mount Zion there shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness" (OBADIAH. 1:17) "To grant us that we being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him with fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life" (LUK. 1: 74-75). That is what He wants from us, he walk the example.
- Resurrection power can work in the presence of holiness "and declared to be the Son of God with the power according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead" (ROM. 1:4).
- He wants us to come out of uncleanness into holiness "I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of

lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness” (ROM.6:19) “Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God” (2 COR. 7:1).

- God created us in holiness, sin pollutes it “and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness” (EPH. 4:24).
- People of the world don’t like holiness “For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness” (ROM.12:10).
- The Lord says no man will see Him without holiness “Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no man will see the Lord” (ROM. 12:14).
- Holiness is a way of God.
- When holiness is present in God’s people, there will be no hindrance to hearing His will, obeying His will, or God’s accomplishing His will through His people.
- Holiness in the lives of God’s people is a sign of God’s presence.
- The abiding presence of God instructs and corrects believers through His Holy Spirit, who daily seeks to transform believers into the likeness of Jesus.
- When believers’ lives bear the fruit of holiness, God is honored.
- Just as no plant, vine, or tree can bear fruit if it is not rooted and fed, believers can only grow in the holiness of God when they are rooted in Him.
- “Should you not fear me? Declares the Lord. Should you not tremble in My presence? I made the sand a boundary for the sea, an everlasting barrier it cannot cross. The waves may roll, but they cannot prevail; they may roar, but they cannot cross it” (JER. 5:22).
- A common way to think about the word abide, as it is used in the Bible, is to think of it as describing living within the law.
- The word also means to be rooted in, or to remain, or to continue being in a certain place, or to do things in a specific way.
- Jesus described what it means to live, or abide, in Him.
- He said His Father is the gardener, and He is the true vine (JOHN. 15:1).
- Believers are the branches of the true vine and are cared for by the gardener.
- Yet the care the gardener provides in this illustration shows us the discipline of God.
- Jesus said, “He cuts off every branch in Me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful” (JOHN. 15:2)
- Jesus is the true vine.
- The Holy One!
- We are the vineyard, His people.
- When the world looks at God’s vineyard, His people, what do they see?
- The Bible tells us that God’s holiness is so radiant that one cannot look upon His perfect holiness and live.
- Did sin in our lives already die in the presence of a Holy God?
- Can people see that radiance in and on our lives?