

Living FROM THE CROSS

LESSON NOTES

TEXT: Eph 4:22-24

"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

- Old self—New self

Q. What is holiness?

Definition—"to be complete and : having a divine quality: sanctified to God; set apart as godly; **sainted**." (holy one)

Vine's Dictionary - "the whole number of the redeemed are called "holy ones" in Jude 1:14 -"See the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones = saints."

Holiness is the predetermined state into which God has restored His chosen people by grace through the forgiveness of sins and the gift of righteousness. Holiness is the outcome of righteousness, consequently, the righteous are called "saints", or "holy ones".

1. Restored Holiness is God's intention in the Cross Read: Eph 1:3, 4

There is no argument that God's will is that we should be a holy people and live a holy life, "for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy.'" ~ 1 Pe 1:16

- **Oswald Chambers**—"God has only one intended destiny for mankind—holiness. His only goal is to produce saints. God is not some eternal blessing-machine for people to use, and he did not come to save us out of pity—he came to save us because he created us to be holy."

1.Q. But what comes first, holiness or holy living?

- How and when do we become holy? Is holiness the goal of Christianity to be achieved by strict obedience to religious living, or is it a present reality to be received and lived by faith?
- Consider the Puritan Movement. What was their goal and approach to holiness?

Disobedience makes a person a sinner, therefore righteous behavior must make a person holy. T or F

a. Article on Christian Living: How to become Holy – Joe Carter

- The writer argues that “the Spirit works in us so that we can be obedient to Christ, because we are progressing toward holiness.”
- He offers these 5 things we must do to become holy.
 - Make Holiness your Purpose: Don't Resist the Holy Spirit: Commit to Obedience: Pursue Jesus, not Moralism, and Expect Improvement, Not Perfection.

Q. From the title, and subsequent points, what is the premise of the article?

Q. If holiness is the goal to be achieved, what is the indicator that we have finally arrived at holiness?

Q. Wouldn't the very realization of such an achievement be the sin of pride, which would immediately result in the loss of holiness?

Q. Is this teaching people to live FROM holiness, or FOR holiness?

b. How to become Holy?

- **Hebrews 2:10, 11**—“In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. Both **the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family**. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.”
- **Heb 13:12** says—“ And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate **to make the people holy through his own blood.**”

2. Holiness is the Outcome of Righteousness

- **Righteousness is...** "moral goodness, purity, guiltlessness, blamelessness & holiness." "To be in right standing with God free from guilt, condemnation, and shame."

Rom 1:16, 17—"For I am not ashamed of the good news, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the good news **the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith** from first to last just as it is written: **The righteous will live by faith.**"

a. **Legalistic righteousness—Living FOR righteousness**—i.e...striving to become; achieving and maintaining God's acceptance by perfect obedience to the religious requirements of the law, or of religious works.

- **Old Way of Works: Rom. 10:1-4**—"Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. Christ is the end of the commandments (It is finished!) so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes."
- **Gal.2:21**—"If righteousness could be gained through keeping the commandments and living a good life, then Christ died for nothing."

b. **The Gift of Righteousness—Living FROM righteousness**—resting in the righteousness of Jesus credited to you.

- **New Way of Faith: Rom 4:6,24** - In the same way, the blessing which David pronounces is on those whom **God credits with righteousness** apart from legalistic observances...This is why it was credited to him as righteousness. The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness - for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.
- **Romans 5:17**—"For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the **gift of righteousness** reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!"

POINT: The immediate effect of regeneration is restored righteousness resulting in holiness.

Illustration: Imagine you are imprisoned and must pay \$100 mil to purchase your freedom, but you already owe an unpaid debt of \$100mil.

DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT	BALANCE
Financial Loss	\$100 mil		(\$100 mil)
Outside source assumes your debt/forgiven		(mercy)	0
Outside source deposits/gift	(grace)	\$100 mil	\$100 mil

"All have sinned and fall short of God's glory/righteousness." Therefore, to be restored you would need the same level of righteousness as God himself, but you are by nature unrighteous because of inherent sin. So, holiness is impossible apart from restored righteousness.

DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT	BALANCE
Righteousness Lost	Debt of sin		Death
Jesus assumed and paid your debt/forgiven	(mercy)	Forgiveness	Clear Conscience
God deposits His righteousness/gift	(grace)	Righteousness	Righteous/holy

3. Holiness the nature of the New Creation 2 Cor.5:21

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

a. Since God is righteous and holy, those born of his seed must be righteous and holy.

- **Heb 10:10-14**—"He sets aside the first (old) to establish the second (new). And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all...For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

b. Holiness IS—"Christ in you."

- **Col 2:9**—"For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been made complete (perfect) in him."

Q. What does "all the fullness of the Godhead" include? God is...

- If the “fullness of God” is in Christ, and Christ is in you, then Christ in you is all your perfection. (It is finished!)
- **1 Cor 1:30**—“it is because of him that you are in **Christ Jesus**, who **has become for us** wisdom from God - that is, our **righteousness, holiness and redemption.**”
- **Col 1:21-23**—“This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and **you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.** But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don’t drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News.”

CONCLUSION: Living FROM Holiness is standing firm in the truth of Christ’s finished work on the Cross.

- Present holiness justifies you to stand before our holy God, without guilt, condemnation, and shame.

CASE STUDY: Compare and Contrast: Isaiah 6:1-6 & John—Revelation 4

Q. What’s similar?

Q. What’s different?

Q. What’s missing in John’s vision? Why?

Quote by Dr. Martin-Lloyd Jones

Faith means a real trusting in Him and what He has done on our behalf and for our salvation. That, according to the Apostle, is the way of obtaining this righteousness.

We can put it in this way: the man who has faith is the man who is no longer looking at himself, and no longer looking to himself. He no longer looks at anything he once was. He does not look at what he is now. He does not look at what he hopes to be as the result of his own efforts. He looks entirely to the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work, and he rests on that alone. He has ceased to say, "Oh yes, I have committed terrible sins, but I have done this and that..." He stops saying that. If he goes on saying that he does not have faith. Or if he says, "Oh, there is still terrible blackness within me, and I find sin within myself still, how can I say that I am saved?" he is still wrong. He must not speak like that because he is still looking to himself. Faith speaks in an entirely different manner and makes a man say, "Yes, I have sinned grievously; I have lived a life of sin. I was a blasphemer, I was injurious, I was vile; there is scarcely a sin I have not committed, and I am aware of sin within me still, yet I know that I am a child of God because I am not resting on any righteousness of my own; my righteousness is in Jesus Christ, and God has put that to my account." He does not look to himself at all; he looks only, utterly, exclusively to the Lord Jesus Christ.

If in any way you do not have assurance because of anything in yourself, it means that you are not exercising faith. Take your sins, face them, recognize them, acknowledge them all with shame; but do not stop at that. Go on and say, "I lay them on him". This is the word of faith. Whatever may be true of you does not matter. We are all sinners, and we will all remain as we are in that sense; but what enables us to know that we are forgiven, and justified, and stand righteous in the sight of God, is that the righteousness of Jesus Christ is given to us. That is what it means. Faith means seeing this truth, assenting to it, casting yourself upon it exactly as you are!

D.M. Lloyd-Jones