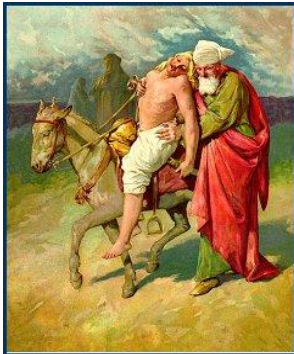


New Horizons Newsletter



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*"May the Lord show you His favor and give you peace."
 (Nu. 6:26)*



HOLINESS; IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK?



Does the word *holiness* scare you? It seems to scare a lot of people. Non-believers joke about it, cults brag about having it and Christians strive to attain it. Holiness is the primary characteristic of God; holiness is Godliness! Because holiness denotes a high level of spiritual and behavioral maturity it becomes a life-style that can help anyone to improve their life situation.

Recently, while praying with a friend, we both felt the Lord say; *"Look at the Kingdom and not the small thing that is troubling your flesh."* To you that may not mean very much, but it made both of us sit up and take notice. I believe God impressed upon us the importance of keeping our eyes on Him and the bigger picture of the Kingdom of God. For me, that sort of puts everything back into perspective. That is where holiness comes into play. As I strive for a life-style of holiness I am constantly reminding myself to try harder because I want to obey God, even though I will never perfectly attain holiness in this lifetime.

Most clients come into Clinical Christian Counseling for help when they are in a state of crisis. But, what often happens to many of them is that as soon as the crisis is over they go back to the same life-style that contributed to the crisis. Invariably, their problems keep returning, cycling out of control - worse than before. So, Clinical Christian Counseling not only addresses the immediate crisis, but also addresses how to achieve a life-style change leading to holiness and discipleship. At some point, the client demonstrates key life-style improvements that will allow us to wean them back into their church and/or family fellowship.

Holiness Is A Gift

"5Now therefore, if you will obey My voice in truth and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own peculiar possession and treasure from among and above all peoples; for all the earth is Mine.

6And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests, a holy nation [consecrated, set apart to the worship of God]. These are the words you shall speak to the Israelites." (Exodus 19:5-6 TLB)

Did you ever wonder why God chose His *"peculiar possession"* who were later named Hebrews?

After all, we all came from the same two persons, Adam and Eve. No groups of people were good enough to be called His people. He chose the Hebrews (means; *"one from beyond"*) out of love and mercy, despite what they did or did not do.

God chose them to represent Him; His life-style and to teach His Word so they could be an agent of salvation to the world. Through the Hebrews the Messiah, God's chosen Son, would be born. Jesus Christ became the Free Gift of salvation to the world. Our part of the bargain is to believe in His Gift. We demonstrate our belief by obeying God which is a life-style of holiness; a life-style of our imperfect obedience.

Holiness Grows, It Does Not Just Happen



*"Sanctify them by the truth; Your Word is truth."
(John 17:17 TLB)*

When you became a believer in Jesus Christ, you became set apart for sacred use - sanctified. Believing and obeying is a life-style that demonstrates you truly believe the Word of God (Hebrews 4:12). Jesus Christ became the sacrificial lamb, whose blood was shed for the eternal forgiveness of our sins (Hebrews 7:26-27). Holiness is the daily application of God's Word that has

a cleansing or purifying effect on your mind and heart - Spirit, Soul & Body.

Last year, \$683 million were spent on self-help books. The total self-improvement market is estimated for 2010 to be \$13.9 billion.² Reading God's Word is reading the Bible which is *the* self-improvement manual. The Bible teaches you "how to" obey God and have eternal life by believing in Jesus Christ. When you sin while living in the life-style of obeying God - holiness - you become motivated to confess your sins, renew your relationship with Jesus Christ, and guided back to continuing the life-style of holiness - obeying God.

Holiness Is A Reshaping

"7For God has not called us to impurity but to consecration [to dedicate ourselves to the most thorough purity]. 8Therefore whoever disregards (sets aside and rejects this) disregards not man but God, Whose [very] Spirit [Whom] He gives to you is holy (chaste, pure)."

(1 Thessalonians 4:7-8 AMP)

"17But the person who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him." (1 Corinthians 6:17 AMP)

As Christians, we are called to not only saying we believe in The Messiah Jesus Christ, but also into obeying God. How can you know that you are obeying God? By demonstrating an actual life change through the molding of a new character that exhibits an improved manner of life - style.

When I became a Christian, my life-style change was not immediately visible. I knew something changed inside of me. But, a life-style change became a process that some call progressive sanctification; fancy words for changing a little at a time. Thirty-eight years later and I am still changing, reshaping, remaking myself as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God (Romans 12:1). God is asking you to implement His desires and purposes into your life and life-style.

"13So brace up your minds; be sober (circumspect, morally alert); set your hope wholly and

¹ Retrieved 9/30/10, from <http://www.searchgodsword.org/lex/heb/view.cgi?number=05680>

² Retrieved 9/30/10, from <http://answers.google.com/answers/threadview/id/786161.html>

unchangeably on the grace (divine favor) that is coming to you when Jesus Christ (the Messiah) is revealed.

14[Live] as children of obedience [to God]; do not conform yourselves to the evil desires [that governed you] in your former ignorance [when you did not know the requirements of the Gospel].

15But as the One Who called you is holy, you yourselves also be holy in all your conduct and manner of living.

16For it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy.” (1 Peter 1:13-16 AMP)

What Makes Holiness So Threatening To Most People?



Antinomianism is a word that means *"with no law."* Basically, its defenders believe that Jesus Christ is the end of all Hebraic Laws (Romans 10:4). They say that everyone who believes has the freedom to live as they choose in developing their own beliefs of obeying God. In other words, do what feels good as long as you are not harming anyone. Today's Humanist or ultra-liberals (progressives) are unwittingly following the ancient religious beliefs of Antinomianism.

The Church of Laodicea is among the seven churches written about in Revelations 3. This church is mentioned because of their being influenced by the false teachers. John was not only writing about the churches of his time, but we also see each church represented a different church age. The Church of Laodicea describes our current church age. The meaning of the word Laodicea is *"the rights of the people."* This is a time in which the rights of the people will be dominant among all other things.

The Church of Laodicea was governed by the people and not by the will of God. The Antichrist and False Prophet will come out of this church age. Sound doctrine will not be tolerated during this time. They will teach a social gospel that is pleasing to their itching ears.

³For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths." (2 Timothy 4:3-4 NIV)

Therefore, this was a church governed by the will of the people, rather than the will of God. Paul taught that believers have died to sin with Christ. It would be inconsistent to think that believers could continue to live in sin (Romans 6:1-11). This *church of the social gospel* is described as lukewarm, indifferent, not concerned with right and wrong, or with good and evil. They take a neutral position: one of "live and let live. . .don't rock the boat. . .don't make waves. They are trying to serve two masters—God and self (or the world.)"³

"Antinomianism. . .remains a snare to believers who are content to come to terms with sin in their own lives and remain unwilling to seek a way of deliverance."⁴

"For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall show signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the very elect." (Mark 13:22).

Pierre J. Samaan, Ph.D.

³ Retrieved 10/2/10, from <http://www.prophecynewswatch.com/trends.htm>

⁴ Brimley, G., et al., Editor. (1982) *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, p 728, Eerdmans Publishing Co.

Pray About Being A Prayer Partner & Financial Supporter



Thank you so much to those who have responded to our plea for financial help. Even though every day is fully booked with clients, donations were way down for the summer. *We still need more help! We are in need of an Apple Laptop and desktop. Also, a lightning storm knocked-out our wireless system and must be replaced.*

We need daily prayer partners who will dedicate a moment of each day to pray for the Clinical Christian Counselors and clients.

The need is greater than ever for financial assistance to continue seeing those who are desperate for help. You may not know this, but we do not turn away those who cannot give a donation for their counseling; we do not believe Jesus would either.

But, the fact remains, we have to pay our expenses.

Would you please consider adding us to your budget for giving to this tax exempt counseling ministry? Thank You!

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"Seeking True Recovery to Replace Pain With Healing Peace."

Clinical Christian Counseling/Clinical Pastoral Counseling is crisis intervention and strengthening of Christian character and values, which is Discipleship. Our Ordained and Professional Clinical Christian Counselors are committed to the welfare of the Christian. Clients are encouraged to take advantage of their own church programs as part of their Christian Counseling Treatment Plan. We are credentialed professionals who must follow state confidentiality guidelines. This is not church Lay Counseling in which your confidentiality cannot be guaranteed.

Professional Clinical Christian Counseling will help the client, couple, or family move beyond tolerable existence into genuine inner healing, renewal, and wholeness through the work of God's Holy Spirit in the counseling.

Tolerable recovery is the process of getting better. True recovery says, "I made it!" This is when I can look at the source of my pain - which has become a stronghold - and realize it has been replaced with God's healing peace - Replacing the source pain with God's Truth.

NEW RESEARCH FINDINGS

Neural Clues To The Calming Effects Of Self-Harm

The notion that cutting or burning oneself could provide relief from emotional distress is difficult to understand for most people, but it is an experience reported commonly among people who compulsively hurt themselves. Read article at: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/199480.php>

Less Than 5 Hours Sleep Linked To Higher Mental Illness Risk

Young healthy adults aged between 17 and 24 years who get less than an average of 5 hours' sleep each night have three times the risk of developing a mental illness compared to individuals of the same age who sleep eight to nine hours every night, according to a study carried out by the George Institute on Global Health, published in the medical journal Sleep. Read article at:

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/199642.php>

Study Reveals That American Women Are Happier Going To Church Than Shopping On Sundays

A new study conducted by a Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU) researcher, together with a researcher from De-Paul University, reveals that women in the United States generally derive more happiness from religious participation than from shopping on Sundays. Read article at:

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/199596.php>

Anger Increases Pain In Women

Negative emotions such as anger and sadness increase pain in women who suffer from fibromyalgia and in those who don't, according to a new study. Read article at:

http://www.webmd.com/fibromyalgia/news/20100924/anger-increases-pain-in-women?ecd=wnl_emw_092910

Bipolar Disorder Does Not Increase Risk Of Violent Crime

A new study from Sweden's Karolinska Institute suggests that bipolar disorder - or manic-depressive disorder - does not increase the risk of committing violent crime. Instead, the over-representation of individuals with bipolar disorder in violent crime statistics is almost entirely attributable to concurrent substance abuse. Read article at: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/200201.php>

B Vitamins Halve Brain Shrinkage Rate In People With Memory Impairment, Alzheimer's Society Comment

A major University of Oxford study has shown that daily tablets of B vitamins can halve the rate of brain atrophy in older people with Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI). The two year randomized double-blind clinical trial is the largest to study the effect of B vitamins on MCI and one of the first disease-modifying trials in the Alzheimer's field to show positive results in people, according to the study. Read article at:

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/200623.php>

Spanking Toddlers Found To Have Negative Effects On Low Income

A new longitudinal study that looks at how low-income parents discipline their young children has found that spanking 1-year-olds leads to more aggressive behaviors and less sophisticated cognitive development in the next two years. Verbal punishment is not associated with such effects, especially when it is accompanied by emotional support from moms. In addition, 1-year-olds' fussiness predicted spanking and verbal punishment at ages 1, 2, and 3. <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/09/090915100941.htm>

***To read the full article, click or copy and paste the URL. The articles are for informational & educational use only. The released studies are not necessarily a reflection of beliefs of this ministry.**

