

David O. Cofield  
CrossRoads Baptist Church  
May 8, 2011 10:15 a.m.

## **“Our Personal Holiness”**

Last Sunday we reminded ourselves of the number one adjective to describe God - Holy. We saw the transformation that Isaiah experienced with these words:

Isaiah was awakened to the horror of his sin only because he saw the holiness of his God. Nothing on earth in the course of what must have been a full and fascinating life had ever awakened Isaiah to the presence and depth of his sin the way this experience did. No teaching he had received, no exhortation from parent or friend or colleague, no warning about verbal sins, . . . nothing had brought him the quality of conviction that truly transforms. It was only when he saw the indescribably surpassing and incomparable character of God that his heart was stung with the anguish of conviction. Personal holiness thus begins with an awareness of who God is. Perhaps that's why so few people are or care to be holy: they've never "seen" God, they know little if anything of the magnitude of his holy majesty, his infinite, uncreated righteousness.

The knowledge of the Holiness of God must lead to personal transformation. Let me explore more of that personal transformation this morning.

I Peter 1: 15-16

II Peter 1:3-4

Leviticus 20:7 “Sanctify yourselves, therefore, and be holy, for I am the Lord your God.”

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## **I. Possibility of Holiness**

You can change and you must change. Stop making excuses of why you can't change. Stop blaming personality, heredity, environment, education, lacks or extremes.

II Corinthians 3: 18 "And so we are transfigured much like the Messiah, our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him." (Message)

Romans 12: 1-2 "Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you." (Message)

I separate myself from myself and give myself to God.

## **II. Path of Holiness**

Three simple tools I believe God uses to transform us:

### **A. The Word of God**

Psalm 1:1-3 "Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night." (NIV)  
"Instead you thrill to God's Word, you chew on Scripture day and night." (Message)

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Psalm 19:7 “The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. (Amplified “restoring the whole person”) The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.”

Joshua 1:8 “And don’t for a minute let this Book of Revelation be out of mind. Ponder and meditate on it day and night, making sure you practice everything written in it.” (Message)

John 17:17 “Sanctify them (Amplified - “purify, consecrate, separate them for Yourself, make them holy”) by the truth; your word is truth.” (NIV) “Make them holy - consecrated - with the truth; Your word is consecrating truth.” (M)

Psalm 119:140 “Thy Word is very pure.”

II Corinthians 3:18

#### B. Prayer - Enter into His presence

Psalm 100:4 “Enter into His gates....”

Hebrews 10:19 “So friends, we can now - without hesitation - walk right up to God, into “the Holy Place,” Jesus has cleared the way by the blood of his sacrifice, acting as our priest before God.” (M) “boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,...” (KJV)

#### C. The Fellowship of God’s people

Hebrews 10:23-25 “Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. and let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” (NIV) “not avoiding worshipping together as some do...” (M)

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Hebrews 3:13 “but exhort one another daily,…”

Proverbs 13:20 “He who walks with the wise grows wise, but the companion of fools suffers harm.” (NIV)

I Samuel 23: 16 “Then Jonathan, Saul’s son, arose and went to David in the woods and strengthened his hand in God.”

### **III. Product of Holiness**

Joy

Psalms 19:8 “The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart.” (NIV)

Psalms 90:14 “Oh, satisfy us early with Your mercy, That we may rejoice and be glad all our days.” (NKJV) “...then we’ll skip and dance all the day long.” (M)

Jeremiah 15:16 “Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart...”

John 15:11 “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.”

### **IV. Purpose of Holiness**

#### 1. To bring Glory to God

Matthew 5:16 “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven.”

#### 2. To become like Christ

II Cor. 13: 8 “...we become like him.” (Message)

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Colossians 1: 22 "...to present you holy, and blameless, and irreproachable in His sight..."

Colossians 1: 28 "Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect (Amplified - "mature, full-grown, fully initiated, complete") in Christ Jesus."

### 3. To be an example to others.

Because others will follow our example.

I Thessalonians 1:5-6 "...You became imitators of us and of the Lord;..."

Philippians 3:17 "Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you." (NIV)

I Corinthians 11:1 "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ." (NIV)

### 4. To see (know) God

Hebrews 12: 14 "Make every effort to live in peace with all men and "to live a clean and holy life; or those who are not holy will not see the Lord." (NLT)

God wants fellowship with us and to come to Him. But how?

Psalm 15: 1 LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle?

Who may dwell in Your holy hill?

Eugene Peterson in The Message "God, who gets invited to dinner at your place? How do we get on your guest list?"

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Psalm 24: 3-5 Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD?

Or who may stand in His holy place?

<sup>4</sup> He who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol,  
Nor sworn deceitfully.

<sup>5</sup> He shall receive blessing from the LORD,  
And righteousness from the God of his salvation.

You must be holy to know God initially and continually.

“Let our daily prayer be:  
Jesus, My Savior, in my behavior,  
Help me to be like Thee;  
Harmless and holy, loving and lowly,  
Patient and pure like Thee!  
- E.H.G. Sargent

Some good resources:

*Personal Holiness in Times of Temptation* by Bruce H. Wilkinson

*The Pursuit of Holiness* by Jerry Bridges

*The Practice of Holiness* by Jerry Bridges

*The Common Made Holy* by Neil T. Anderson and Robert L. Saucy