

Because of Holiness

—There is No Middle Ground—

- God is Holy
- Holiness Requires Separation
- Holiness Shapes Daily Living
- Holiness Prepares for Eternity

Our subject this morning is entitled, “*Because of Holiness*”.

If more people truly understood the meaning and significance of **Holiness**, they would realize that there is **No middle ground**, between God’s ways and the ways of the world.

Holiness is not merely a biblical word — it is a dividing line, a calling, and a lifestyle, that demands **Complete** separation from sin and **Full** devotion to God.

Holiness is not optional or partial — it is essential.
Those who seek God, must be holy, as He is holy.

Our goal is to better understand the holiness of God, what it means to reflect His holiness in our lives, and how that truth, leaves no room for spiritual neutrality.

Let us first look upward—to the very source...

I. God is Holy

A. God's Nature is Pure and Separate

Peter reminds Christians that our call to holiness is not optional; it is grounded in the very nature of God.

- “because it is written, **Be ye holy; for I am holy.**” ([1Pet.1:16](#))

John emphasizes, the absolute purity of God — Light with No trace of darkness.

- “This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, that **God is light, and IN Him is NO darkness at all.**” ([1Jn.1:5](#))

The prophet Isaiah, in a heavenly vision, heard the angels declaring God’s holiness, in unceasing praise.

- “...**Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of His glory.**” ([Isa.6:3](#))

David, in his song of deliverance, testified that God’s ways are flawless.

- He said, “**As for God, His way is perfect;**” ([2Sam.22:31a](#))

God’s holiness is absolute and unchanging.
He is the very definition of purity and separation from sin.

Our call to holiness, begins with knowing the Holy One.

Because of Holiness, we cannot approach God casually, but with reverence and fear.

Recognizing God’s holiness, should not leave us unmoved—it compels...

B. Awe and Reverence Before the Holy God

David declared that...

- “**The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord, are true and righteous altogether.**” ([Psa.19:9](#))
—a reverence that never fades.

The psalmist calls all to...

- “**Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling.**” ([Psa.2:11](#))

The Hebrew writer stated...

- “Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably, with reverence and godly fear: ²⁹ for our God is a consuming fire.” ([Heb.12:28–29](#))

Holiness demands reverence.

Our worship and lifestyle, must reflect deep respect, for God’s character.

Casual, flippant approaches to God, ignore His holiness and result in spiritual blindness.

True reverence for God, requires that we separate ourselves, from all that is unholy.

II. Holiness Demands Spiritual Separation

A. No Fellowship With Darkness

Paul urges Christians, not only to avoid works of darkness, but to actively expose them.

- “have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.” ([Eph.5:11](#))

To the Thessalonians, Paul stressed the importance of testing everything.

- “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain (that is, refrain or avoid) from all appearance of evil (that is, any outward form, or figure of evil).” ([1Thess.5:21-22](#))

Peter appeals to believers as pilgrims in this world.

- He said, “Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;” ([1Pet.2:11](#))

Paul makes the contrast clear...

- “Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord’s table, and of the table of devils.” ([1Cor.10:21](#))

Holiness requires total separation from sin.

There is no spiritual middle ground.

We must expose sin, Not tolerate it.

Because of Holiness, we cannot have fellowship, with the works of darkness.

Separation from sin, also means...

B. Rejecting Spiritual Compromise that Dilutes Holiness

Paul instructs us to clothe ourselves with Christ and refuse to give sin an opportunity.

- He said, “But put ye on, the Lord Jesus Christ, and **make not provision for the flesh**, to fulfil the lusts thereof.” ([Rom.13:14](#))

Peter explains, that when Christians refuse to live in sin, the world will think it strange.

- He said, “wherein they think it strange, that ye run not with them, to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:” ([1Pet.4:4](#))

God’s call, has always been the same...

- “Wherefore **come out from among them, and be ye separate**, saith the Lord, and **touch not the unclean thing**; and I will receive you, ¹⁸ and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.” ([2Cor.6:17-18](#))

Holiness means saying no, to things that may be socially acceptable, but spiritually harmful. Compromise is not a lesser sin — it is a rejection of holiness.

Compromise often shows itself in divided loyalties, but holiness demands...

C. Devotion Without Division

Jesus warns the church at Laodicea, that lukewarm faith is intolerable to Him.

- He said, “So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of My mouth.” ([Rev.3:16](#))

James reminds us that...

- “A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.” ([Jas.1:8](#))

Jesus plainly states...

- “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” ([Matt.6:24](#)) — we must choose!

James calls friendship with the world, what it really is—Enmity with God.

- He said, “Ye adulterers and adulteresses (spiritual adulterers and adulteresses — unfaithful one’s), know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore, will be a friend of the world, is the enemy of God.” ([Jas.4:4](#))

Holiness cannot coexist, with divided loyalty.

We are either all in, or we are out.

God despises lukewarmness, because it pretends to honor Him, while still clinging to the world.

Holiness is not only about what we avoid...

III. Holiness Transforms Daily Living

A. Including, Our Words and Thoughts

Paul exhorts Christians, to let their speech build others up, rather than tear them down.

- He said, “Let no corrupt communication, proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.” ([Eph.4:29](#))

Our words should always be gracious, seasoned with wisdom, ready to give the right answer.

- “Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know, how ye ought to answer every man.” ([Col.4:6](#))

Jesus warns that...

- “every idle word, that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof, in the day of judgment.” ([Matt.12:36](#))

Rebuking the Pharisees and religious leaders of the time,

Jesus reminded, that our words, flow out of the true condition, of the heart.

- He said, “O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out, of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh.” ([Matt.12:34](#))

A holy heart, produces holy speech.

What we say, reveals whether we are, truly set apart for God.

Because of Holiness, our words must be pure and our relationships guarded.

Holiness, not only transforms our words, but also...

B. Our Modesty and Appearance

Paul taught women to dress modestly, with an emphasis on good works, over outward display.

- He said, "...women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; ¹⁰ but (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works." ([1Tim.2:9-10](#))

Peter likewise stressed, that true beauty, is found in a gentle and quiet spirit.

- "Whose adorning, let it Not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; ⁴ but **let it be the hidden man of the heart**, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament, of a **meek and quiet spirit**, which is in the sight of God of great price." ([1Pet.3:3-4](#))

Paul reminds us, that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, bought with the blood of Christ.

- He said, "What? know ye not that **your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit**, which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? ²⁰ For ye are bought with a price: therefore **glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's**." ([1Cor.6:19-20](#))

To the Romans, Paul wrote that transformation, begins in the renewing of the mind, — not conformity to the world.

- He said, "And **be not conformed to this world**: but be ye transformed, by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." ([Rom.12:2](#))

Holiness affects what we wear, how we present ourselves, and it also governs...

C. Our Relationships and Influence

Paul draws the line clearly—righteousness and unrighteousness, cannot have fellowship.

- He said, "Be ye not unequally yoked together, with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion, hath light with darkness?" ([2Cor.6:14](#))
- Paul warns, "Be not deceived: Evil companionships corrupt good morals." ([1Cor.15:33](#) ASV)

Solomon observed, that our companions shape our wisdom—or our destruction.

- "He that walketh with wise men, shall be wise: but a companion of fools, shall be destroyed." ([Prov.13:20](#))

Who we associate with, Matters. Holiness doesn't isolate us, but it does Distinguish us. We cannot allow worldly influence, to pull us away, from God's standard.

All these truths point us forward—holiness not only guides our present life, but also...

IV. Holiness Prepares Us for Eternity

Eternity will not be determined by our intentions, but by the fruit, our lives bear.

Scripture makes a clear contrast between...

A. The Character Produced by God's Spirit and the Destructive Works of the Flesh

Paul describes the fruit of the Spirit—the evidence of a holy life.

- He said, "the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." ([Gal.5:22-23](#))
- "they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh, with the affections and lusts." ([Gal.5:24](#))

God through Paul, contrasts these with the works of the flesh, which bring condemnation.

- “Now the **works of the flesh** are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰ idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, ²¹ envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and **such like**: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that **they which do such things, shall NOT inherit the kingdom of God.**” ([Gal.5:19–21](#))

Paul makes the contrast even clearer in [Eph.5:18](#):

- “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess (greek: asotia); but be filled with the Spirit.”

The word “excess” comes from a Greek term, that describes a reckless, wasteful, out-of-control life —the kind of life that belongs to the world, not to God’s people.

In other passages, this word is used to describe

- riotous living ([Lk.15:13](#))
- and sinful behavior, that Christians must avoid ([1Pet.4:4](#)).

In simple terms, Paul is saying:

- drunkenness leads to a life without holiness,
- a life wasted in sin and rebellion.

But holiness demands the opposite:

- to be filled, not with wine or any intoxication
- but be filled, with the Spirit of God.

Because of Holiness, we have nothing to do with intoxicating drinks, —that dull our minds and open the door to sin.

Because of Holiness, we choose to be filled with the Spirit —completely guided by God’s Word, with no room left, for the works of the flesh.

This is a sharp line of separation:

- drunkenness belongs to the unsaved life,
- but Spirit-filled living, belongs to the **Holy** Life IN Christ.

So while Paul shows us, what to put away and what to be filled with, Peter shows us, how to grow and strengthen that holy life IN Christ.

- He said, “giving all diligence, **ADD to your faith Virtue**; and to virtue Knowledge; ⁶ and to knowledge Temperance; and to temperance Patience; and to patience Godliness; ⁷ and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity (or love).

⁸ For **IF these things be in you, and abound**, they make you, that ye shall Neither be barren, Nor unfruitful, in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁹ But **he that lacketh these things is BLIND, and CanNot SEE afar off, and hath FORGOTTEN, that he was purged, from his old sins.**

¹⁰ Wherefore the rather, brethren, **give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for IF ye Do these things, ye shall never fall:”** ([2Pet.1:5–10](#))

Holiness is not just about avoiding sin

—it is about bearing the spiritual fruit, that proves, we belong to Christ.

The choice before us, could not be clearer—Holiness IS...

B. The Narrow Way that Leads to Life

Jesus taught that the way of life is narrow, difficult, and found by few.

- So, “**Strive to enter in, at the strait gate...**” ([Lk.13:24](#))
- “**Enter ye in at the strait gate... few there be that find it.**” (read [Matt.7:13–14](#))

On Pentecost, Peter declared the entry point, into this path.

- “**Repent, and be baptized... for the remission of sins.**” ([Acts 2:38](#))

Jesus said in assurance...

- “**Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.**” ([Rev.2:10](#))

Holiness is the narrow path, that leads to eternal life.

The broad road of compromise, leads to destruction.

Because of Holiness, we must bear the fruit of the Spirit and crucify the works of the flesh.

V. Some Final Thoughts

In light of all we’ve considered, the conclusion is unmistakable; There Is No Middle Ground.

There is No middle ground:

- Between, Light and darkness ([1Jn.1:5](#))
- Between, Truth and false doctrine ([Gal.1:8–9](#))
- Between, Holiness and worldliness ([Rom.12:1–2](#))
- Between, Obedience and rebellion ([Lk.6:46](#))
- Between, Eternal life and eternal damnation ([Matt.25:46](#))

We must choose ([Josh.24:15](#)).

- Holiness is not a suggestion — it is a command.
- It is not partial — it is whole.
- And it is not passive — it requires full devotion.

Let us walk, as children of light.

- “**Every man that hath this hope in him, purifieth himself, even as He is pure.**” ([1Jn.3:3](#))

If you are not walking in holiness, today is the day to respond, through.

- Hearing ([Rom.10:17](#))
- Believing ([Jn.8:24](#))
- Repenting ([Lk.13:3](#))
- Confessing ([Rom.10:9–10](#))
- Being Baptized INTO Christ ([Gal.3:27](#); [Acts 2:38](#))
- And Remaining Faithful ([Rev.2:10](#))

There is No middle ground. May God help us to...

- Choose Christ, Choose Holiness, Choose Life.