

Holiness - A Kingdom Lifestyle

Key Verse

Romans 6:17-18 - But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. (NIV)

Opening Questions

What do you think of when you hear the word “holy”?

What comes to mind when you hear the word “saint”?

Exploring the Bible

What Are We Anyway?

Colossians 1:21-22 - Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation (NIV)

Question: Before you were saved who were you alienated from?

Answer:

Question: Because of Christ’s death how are you now presented to God?

Answer:

Ephesians 1:4 - For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. (NIV)

Question: What were we chosen to be?

Answer:

What does it mean to be Holy?

When you got saved, many good things happened to you. One of those good things is that God now sees you as someone who is holy. No matter what you have done in your past, God now sees you as holy and blameless. What does it mean to be holy? The word holy means to be separated, set apart as something special. When something like an article of clothing was considered holy, it was no longer a common article of clothing. It was now set apart as a special article of clothing for special use. When you get saved, you are no longer common but special. You have been set apart from sin and the world and set apart for God's own special purpose (your destiny).

Ephesians 1:1 - Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: (NIV)

Question: Who is Paul addressing?

Answer:

Philippians 1:1 - Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons: (NIV)

Question: Who is Paul addressing here?

Answer:

What is a Saint?

Paul wrote many letters to believers in various cities. Most of the time he addressed them as saints. When you hear the word "saint," you might think of someone who held a high position in the church or was super holy or spiritual. But the word "saint" simply means "holy one." By addressing these believers as saints, he was calling them "holy ones." That means that if you are saved you are a "holy one," a saint. This goes along with what we just learned. When you got saved, God began to see you as holy. Therefore, the proper term for you is a holy one, a saint.

Living Like Saints

Ephesians 5:3 - But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. (ESV)

Question: What kind of things are not proper among saints?

Answer:

There is a lot of negative stuff that should not be a part of our lives now that we are saved and are saints. These might be things that we participated in before we got saved, but now as saints or holy ones these are the kinds of things that must disappear from our lives.

1 Peter 1:15-16 - But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." (NIV)

Question: What should we be in all we do?

Answer:

Question: Why are we supposed to act this way?

Answer:

While living holy does encompass living a life that is free of the negative stuff listed above, it is a lot more than that. It is a lifestyle. But, what does that really mean? If the word holy means to be set apart for special use, then to live a lifestyle of holiness is to live a life that is special and set apart for the Kingdom of God. This is living out your destiny, your assignment in the Kingdom of God. Everything you do now has the focus of the Kingdom of God. That is what makes you special and set apart from all the lives of the people who are not born again.

Celebrate Freedom

Romans 6:15-18 - What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. (NIV)

Question: Before you got saved, what were you a slave to?

Answer:

Question: After you got saved, what did you become a slave to?

Answer:

Jesus paid the price to set us free from sin. We should be excited that we don't have to sin anymore and experience all of its destructive results. Holiness is a celebration of our freedom from the tyranny of sin and a celebration of our freedom to live lives that are set apart to Jesus Christ. It is through Jesus Christ and His death on the cross that we now can live out our destiny and fulfill the purpose for which God created us with all the passion that He has put within us. This makes life exciting, abundant, and fulfilling.

How Do I Do This?

I see that God has made me holy when I got saved and that now I am called a holy one, a saint. But a lot of times I don't feel like a saint and I don't act like one. How do I begin to live in a way that lines up with who I am?

Read *Romans 6:19-23*

Question: v 19 - When I give my body to do righteous things, what does this lead to?

Answer:

Question: v 22 - Now that you are saved, to whom do you belong?

Answer:

Question: v 22 - What benefit does this bring you?

Answer:

Even though you are already holy in God's eyes, there is a process of seeing that holiness become a reality in your life. This is how the Kingdom of God always works. God starts by making something a reality in heaven and then provides the resources to make the same reality manifest on earth. The word that is sometimes used for this process is called "sanctification" which simply means "the process of becoming holy." There is nothing you can do to make this happen. God does this in you. He puts his finger on something that He wants to take out of your life. Your part is to simply offer yourself to live rightly by saying, "Yes!" to what God wants to remove in your life. Always remember that if God is wanting to remove something, it is because it is destructive to you and He wants to replace it with something much better.

Read *James 1:22-25*

Question: v 23-24 – A person who listens to the Word but does not do what it says is likened to what?

Answer:

Question: v 25 – A person will be blessed if they do what?

Answer:

God always works by giving us a certain status in heaven and then works to bring our life on earth into alignment with that heavenly status. When we read the Bible, we are “looking into the perfect law that gives freedom.” In the Bible we see a picture of ourselves in God’s mirror. In God’s mirror we DON’T see all the bad things about our life. What we see instead is the picture of how God DOES see us, as holy ones or saints. The more we keep seeing the picture of how God sees us the easier it is to live and act like that picture.

Read *Romans 12:1-2*

Question: v 2 – How do you become transformed?

Answer:

The fact that we are called to renew our minds means that there is a lot of stuff in our minds from our old way of live before we were saved that is not in alignment with how God sees us. If we are going to start living a holy lifestyle, we will need to change how we think. The first and foremost thing that we have to change about how we think is how we look at ourselves. We must begin to see ourselves the way God sees us. When we begin to see ourselves the way God sees us, we are experiencing the renewing of our minds. As our minds are renewed, we have the ability to step into our destiny by discerning what God is doing on this earth and stepping in with our gifts, talents, and passions to further carry out the will of God and advance the kingdom of God.

Practical Exercise

Make the following declaration out loud, “I am a saint!”

How did that make you feel? What came to mind when you spoke those words?