

## **Day 11: Holiness:**

*“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,”*

**- Ephesians 5:15-20**

### **Read:**

Read these verses again. What are some of the directions we are given in the verses above? Do you feel like these are things that are present in your daily life right now?

### **Think:**

Holiness is not ours. It is God's. He shares it with us. We believe in the doctrine of sanctification. It is a dichotomy. It is a two-sided coin. **Side one:** Sanctification is the sacred setting apart that happens at the moment one has *sincerely* repented of their sin, acknowledged Christ Jesus, and asked him to be the savior of their lives. **Side two:** There is also an ongoing process of sanctification. This is from the help of the Holy Spirit as it continues to do its work in us until we have left our earthly bodies.

David Powlison puts it this way: *“In the past tense, your sanctification has already happened. You are a saint - an identity for which you get no credit! God decisively acted by making you his very own in Christ. You have been saved. In the present tense, your sanctification is now being worked out. God is working throughout your life - on a scale of days, years, and decades - to remake you into the likeness of Jesus. You are being progressively sanctified. You are being saved. In the future tense, your sanctification will be perfected. You will live. Your love will be perfected. You will see God’s face when he decisively acts to complete his work of conforming you to the image of Jesus. You will participate in the glory of God himself. You will be saved.”*

Holiness is achieved by faith in God. Holiness is gifted to us by faith and for our faith. It is by His power. **(See Romans 1:16-17)**

Sanctification means that you are now, by the direction and conviction of the Holy Spirit, acknowledging the condition of your heart and therefore making better decisions with your life. You become better with stewarding your money, honoring God with your sexuality, doing well at work, and you are a better friend and family member. You will also learn to pray more honestly. You will be driven to seek God through His Word and pray prayers of intercession for others. You begin to pull the reality of who God is into the very fabric of your life. Holiness is not

just a spiritual ideal or virtue. It is a practical way to live. There is purpose. There is meaning. There is maturity. There is hope. When you come to Jesus, He exposes you for who you really are. We have hope because despite the Lord's knowledge of exactly who we are, He has still given us the gift of His holiness to bring us into closer communion with Him. His sovereign plan is to make us more like Christ even though we were enemies of the throne because of our sin. Despite our rebellion, we have been invited into the holy identity of Christ. There is not a sin you could commit that hasn't already been covered by the blood of Jesus should you sincerely come to him with *true* repentance. If you haven't yet done this, let me urge you to do so. I can't promise you that it will be easy from here on out, but it will be far better for you to receive the gift of salvation. Let go of your past and let the Lord do His amazing work in your heart.

### **Pray:**

Take time to pray about how you can find a strong accountability partner. The past few days we've studied the topic of serving and community. Pray that what you have learned can be applied into helping one another towards trusting the Lord and His ability to make us a holy people. Pray that God reveals the places in your heart that you may even be hiding from yourself. Thank Him for being a patient Father. Thank Him for setting such a perfect standard of holiness. It is because He is so perfect at being holy, that He can impart that holiness unto His creation as He wills.