



“Holiness: Faith → Salvation + Works”

Various Texts

Sunday | October 27th, 2019 | Pastor Patrick Bowler

CONSULT THE SCHOLARS

[Kevin DeYoung] *“You didn’t grow up with a concern for holiness. It wasn’t something you talked about. It wasn’t what your family prayed about or your church emphasized. So, to this day, it’s not your passion. The pursuit of holiness feels like one more thing to worry about in your already impossible life. Sure, it would be great to be a better person, and you hope to avoid the really big sins. But you figure, since we’re saved by grace, holiness is not required of you, and frankly, your life seems fine without it.*”

The hole in our holiness is that we don’t really care much about it. Passionate exhortation to pursue gospel-driven holiness is barely heard in most churches. It’s not that we don’t talk about sin or encourage decent behavior. Too many sermons are basically self-help seminars on becoming a better you. That’s moralism, and it’s not helpful. Any gospel which says only what you must do and never announces what Christ has done is no gospel at all. So I’m not talking about getting beat up every Sunday for watching SportsCenter and driving an SUV. I’m talking about the failure of Christians, especially younger generations and especially those most disdainful of ‘religion’ and ‘legalism,’ to take seriously one of the great aims of our redemption and one of the required evidences for eternal life—our holiness.

...My fear is that as we rightly celebrate, and in some quarters rediscover, all that Christ has saved us from, we are giving little thought and making little effort concerning all that Christ has saved us to. Shouldn’t those most passionate about the gospel and God’s glory also be those most dedicated to the pursuit of godliness? I worry that there is an enthusiasm gap and no one seems to mind.¹

¹Kevin DeYoung, *The Hole In Our Holiness* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012), p. 10, 11.

1. Read Romans 6:1-4 and discuss. Why does Paul bring up this question (vs. 1)? Why was it necessary?
2. Pastor and author Kevin DeYoung says, “*God saved you so that you might be holy.*”² Read and discuss the following texts: Eph. 1:3-4, Ex. 19:4-6, Matt. 7:21-27, James 2:14, 1 Cor. 1:9-10, Gal. 5:19-21, 1 Jn. 2:3-6.
3. Read 1 John 2:1-6 and discuss. In vss. 1-2 John lays out the gospel! And then in vss. 3-6 he calls us to “*Keep his commandments*” and “*walk in the same way in which he walked.*” Pastor Patrick talked about two different holinesses in Scripture. What are they?³ Why is it important that we talk about both?
4. If we talk about one holiness at the loss of the other we fall into either one of two errors, (1) legalism or (2) antinomianism.⁴ Read the “Consult the Scholars” excerpt above and discuss.
5. One scholar (*Daniel Doriani*) offers the following four different ways to view the relationship between faith and works (Note: The [→] means “produces” or “results in”).⁵

- (1) Works → Salvation
- (2) Faith + Works → Salvation
- (3) Faith → Salvation
- (4) Faith → Salvation + Works

Which equation best represents the Gospel? Identify the errors of the remaining three equations; why are they wrong biblically?

6. Read Hebrews 12:1-2 and discuss.
7. Read 1 Peter 1:14-16 and discuss.
8. Why is holiness important?
9. What immediate applications can be made in light of this sermon?

²Kevin DeYoung, *The Hole In Our Holiness* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway 2012), p. 24.

³The first “holiness” refers to the one that is by faith (e.g. Rom. 1:17). This holiness (i.e. righteousness) belongs to Christ and is available to us by faith. The second “holiness” is the one we “strive for” (Heb. 12:14). This is the holiness that God saves us to; this is the holiness that evidences that we are truly saved (see James 2:14).

⁴Anti = “against,” Nomos = “law.” Where legalism is the belief (or practice) that we are saved by the law or by works, antinomianism is the belief (or practice) that because we are saved by grace, it doesn’t matter what we do. Both beliefs or positions are wrong.

⁵Daniel M. Doriani, *Reformed Expository Commentary: James* (P&R Publishing: Phillipsburg, New Jersey, 2007) p. 95-96.