

- MOST ISSUES OF HOLINESS ARE NOT SALVATION ISSUES; THEY ARE CHRISTIAN MATURITY (OR, SANCTIFICATION) ISSUES. **ONLY AS WE DO NOT OBEY GOD IN THESE AREAS DOES OUR WILLFUL DISOBEDIENCE BECOME A SALVATION ISSUE.**
- The apostles obviously placed great importance on many areas of Christian maturity, such as: Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 6:22-25), the Gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:1, 14:1), Holiness in Spirit, Conduct and Appearance (Ephesians 5:27, 1 Thessalonians 4:1,4, 5:22, 1 Timothy 2:9-10, 2 Corinthians 6:17, 7:1), Submission (Ephesians 5:21, Philippians 2:3), Proper Use of Christian Liberty (1 Corinthians 8:9,13, 10:32), Good Works (Ephesians 2:10, Titus 1:16, James 2:17-18), Doctrinal and Spiritual Maturity (Ephesians 4:14-15, Hebrews 6:1), etc, etc, etc.
- While one can certainly OBTAIN salvation without understanding or immediately experiencing all of these areas, the apostles cast certain doubt on one being able to MAINTAIN their salvation without a desire for a progressing experience (Hebrews 10:23-24,28, James 2:14,26, 4:8).
- IT IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS TO KNOW AND NOT DO!
- Only an immature or backslidden believer would ever ask "Do I have to?" when it's in the Word!

## **A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE ON HOLINESS:**

### **1. HOLINESS IS AN ABSOLUTE REQUIREMENT FOR CHRISTIANS.**

**1 Peter 1:15-16** *But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*

**1 Corinthians 3:16-17** *Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.*

### **2. HOLINESS MUST INVOLVE SEPARATION FROM THE WORLD.**

**2 Corinthians 6:17-7:1** *Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

### **3. GOD HATES THOSE WHO REJECT HOLINESS.**

**1 Thessalonians 4:7-8** *For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.*

**2 Peter 2:1-22** <sup>1</sup> *But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. <sup>2</sup> And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of ... <sup>12</sup> But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption; <sup>13</sup> And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you; <sup>14</sup> Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children ... <sup>17</sup> These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. <sup>18</sup> For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. <sup>19</sup> While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. <sup>20</sup> For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. <sup>21</sup> For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. <sup>22</sup> But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.*