



SONS & DAUGHTERS
Holiness in Light of the Cross
Week 9

Opening prayer

Prayer for the persecuted church:

Prayer for a local church:

This morning we pray for our brother Dave Dick and Canyon Lake Community Church.

Closing prayer

Introduction:

- Red Ford Pinto | That was the end of my red Fort Pinto because I was concerned

about the external without regard to the internal.

No matter how pristine the external looks, it will not matter if the internal is not well-oiled. This is a common problem in the Christian life when it comes to the subject of holiness, because we so often associate holiness with external things.

What does holiness look like? Here's what it doesn't look like:

- If I do these things, then I'll become holy.
- If I become holy, then I'll be loved by God.
- I will know I am holy when God blesses me.

There's a great emphasis on doing with that mindset and not so much on believing the right things in order that we might live the right way.

The other issue with that mindset is that it's taken up with the external without regard for the internal. Our external witness will mirror our inward state. If we're not free internally

we'll come across as rigid and tight and joyless. Is that how you think Jesus would be described by anyone?

When you look at the way Jesus is described in the Bible you find descriptions like: full of grace and truth, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, humble and gentle of heart, compassionate, sympathetic, the Bright and Morning Star.

1. The Christian life flows from the inside out.

Matthew 23:25-26

²⁵ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. ²⁶ You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean.

The point Jesus is making here is that if you are clean internally, then you will live clean externally. In other words, the Christian life flows from the inside out.

And if the Christian life flows from the inside out, then holiness doesn't come by external things we do. Holiness doesn't come by your Bible reading, or your willpower to say no to rich desserts, or your good deeds like cleaning up an elderly neighbor's lawn. Where does holiness come from then? How do we become holy? Well, we're going to answer

that question, but first let's just define holiness.

Let's simply define holiness like this:

2. Holiness is loving God and loving others.

You have heard the command: “Love God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind. And love your neighbor as yourself.” As a matter of fact, the teaching Scripture says that if

you're doing these things then you are fulfilling the whole law. It even says:

Galatians 5:14

¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

And if you're fulfilling the whole law you are certainly holy.

But do you notice the emphasis in this definition of holiness? In this definition holiness is relational. It's loving God in a relationship and then loving others in relationship, however casual or intimate those relationships happen to be.

That's why Jesus said:

Matthew 7:3-5

³ Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is

in your own eye? ⁴ Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

C. John Miller said, “I am naturally others-centered. When there’s a problem I’m pretty sure it’s another’s fault. See? Others-centered.”

So, how do we change our perspective about these things? How do we change our behavior? How do we become holy?

3. How do we change? By believing the gospel.

Galatians 3:3-5

³ Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

In other words, are you perfected by the external things you do? Are you becoming holy by doing certain things and avoiding other things?

⁴ Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? ⁵ Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith—

Again, we're in the category of accomplishing things for God, even working miracles, and

the emphasis is the same again — it's all accomplished through faith. Hearing the Word and believing. I would make it even more specific by saying holiness is accomplished by hearing the gospel and believing it and by extension believing every promise that flows from the gospel.

What does this look like in daily life?

- The Cross Chart

1 Timothy 1:15

¹⁵ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

Example: The Paddock Restaurant