

Review

- In the Old Covenant, God laid out how He expected the Israelites to approach Him in worship
 - He was so serious about these standards that if you ignored them, you put your life at risk
- Leviticus 10:3 –...Among those who approach me I will be proved holy; in the sight of all the people I will be honored.

Be Very Careful

- We don't live under the Old Covenant anymore... Jesus has paid the price so we can come near to God, but He is still a Consuming Fire... He is still the one Jeremiah called a "Dread Warrior"... the one Jacob called "The Fear of Isaac"... the one Moses called "A Man of War"...
- Ephesians 5:15 – Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise...
 - "be very careful" = lit. to pay precise attention... to observe and look closely at how you really are living (not just what you wish you were living like)
 - MSG = "watch your step"

If God had certain requirements in the Old Covenant, what are His requirements in the New Covenant?

1) A Life of Holiness

- Hebrews 12:14 – Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.
- Old Testament Cherubim
 - OT talked about these wild, terrifying angelic creatures called Cherubim that surrounded God's throne and kept unwanted guests out
 - He's holy, so you cannot bring unholiness into His presence
- Parable of the Wedding Feast (Matthew 22)
 - Jesus talked about the Kingdom of God being like a wedding feast
 - A guest shows up without appropriate wedding attire, so the groom's father kicks him out
 - What's the appropriate clothing?
 - Revelation 19:8 says our wedding attire is "fine linen, bright and clean... the righteous acts of the saints"
 - If you're not living right, you can't come to the wedding
 - Without holiness, no one will see the Lord
- Psalm 15 – 1 Lord, who may dwell in your sacred tent? Who may live on your holy mountain? 2 The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from their heart; 3 whose tongue utters no slander, who does no wrong to a neighbor, and casts no slur on others; 4 who despises a vile person but honors those who fear the Lord; who keeps an oath even when it hurts, and does not change their mind; 5 who lends money to the poor without interest; who does not accept a bribe against the innocent. Whoever does these things will never be shaken.
 - Your "walk is blameless" – you do what's right to the best of your abilities
 - You do "what is righteous" – lit. practices righteousness (it's your way of life)
 - You "speak the truth" – you're not just telling people what they want to hear, or saying things that make you look better
 - You don't "slander," gossip, or spread stories about others
 - You don't do "wrong to a neighbor"
 - You "cast no slur on others" – You don't talk bad about people behind their backs
 - You "despise evil people" and "honor those who fear God" – You call evil people evil and treat them like evil people... and you give honor to good people
 - You "keep your oaths even when it hurts"

- You don't "change your mind" – Not that you don't adjust as you see new evidence and admit if you were wrong, but you're not changing your opinion whenever it suits you
- You "lend money to the poor without interest" – You don't take advantage of the poor, but give help freely
- You don't "accept a bribe against the innocent," thereby corrupting justice, harming innocent people, and letting the guilty go free
- 1 Peter 1:15-16 – 15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."
 - When the Bible talks about us being holy, it has a lot to do with our actions, what we do
- Galatians 6:7-8 – 7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.
 - Galatians 5:17 says that the flesh and the spirit are at war with each other...
 - In Galatians 5:19-21, Paul defines the "acts of the flesh" as "sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like..."
 - If you sow to the Spirit, if you plant seeds of holiness pleasing to God, you will reap eternal life
 - And what is eternal life?
 - John 17:3 – Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

Jesus Makes Us Holy

- Philippians 3:3 – For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh...
- 1 Corinthians 1:30 – It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.
- Hebrews 2:11 says that Jesus is "the one who makes people holy"
- Hebrews 10:10 – And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.
- Romans 6:22 – But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.

It's a Partnership

- In Ephesians 4:24, Paul tells us to "put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."
- In 2 Timothy 2:20-21, Paul says that those who "cleanse themselves" will be "made holy."

Philippians 2:12-13 – 12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence – continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.