



May 10, 2026 | Dr. Jimmy Stewart

Jesus Changes Everything

Worldliness → Holiness

Scripture: 1 John 2:15–17; Romans 12:1–2, 8:29; 1 Peter 1:15–16

Spotlight: Holiness is not isolation from the world but devotion to God.

Summary: God gives mothers and fathers the opportunity and responsibility *to shape their children's hearts* before the world can corrupt their minds. In a culture that constantly pressures people to conform, compromise, and chase temporary things, God calls His people to something greater—**holiness**. Holiness is not about becoming strange, self-righteous, or disconnected from people; it is about living fully devoted to Jesus. It is the state of being/living that God intends for each one of us. We were all created to be holy! Ultimately it is our sweet spot in living. A godly mother understands that the greatest gift she can give her children is not worldly success, but holiness that comes from a life fully devoted to Jesus Christ. The world changes fashions, opinions, and values almost daily, but holiness anchors us to the unchanging character of God.

I. Loving the World and Loving God are *Incompatible*.

1 John 2:15-17

15 Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. 16 For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. 17 And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.

1 John 5:19

We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is under the control of the evil one.

1 Peter 5:8

Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

John is not *condemning* creation itself. He is *warning against* a system of thinking that pushes God out and places self at the center.

A ship does not sink because it is surrounded by water.

It sinks when the water gets inside the ship.

Believers live in the world, but the danger comes when the world gets into the believer.

Ask yourself:

- What has more influence over my heart than God?
- What attitudes or habits are quietly pulling me away from Christ?
- What is entering my home through entertainment, bitterness, greed, or compromise?

II. Being Conformed to the Likeness of the Son of God and Not the World is *Transformational*.

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 8:29

For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

The Christian life is **not** behavior management.

It is ***heart transformation***.

The world works from the outside in:

- Appearance
- Image
- Performance

God works from the inside out:

- Mind
- Heart
- Spirit
- Character

1 Samuel 16:7

People judge by outward appearance, the Lord looks at the heart.

One of the greatest ministries a mother has is shaping the atmosphere of the home.

Children may not remember every sermon. They may forget many conversations.

But they will remember:

- how *peace* felt in the home,
- how *forgiveness* was practiced,
- how *prayer* was valued,
- how *Scripture* was honored,
- and whether Jesus was truly *treasured*.

A holy mother changes the *atmosphere*:

- with prayer,
- with grace,
- with wisdom,
- with steadfast faith.

Holiness grows through **daily surrender**:

- Time in Scripture
- Prayer
- Repentance
- Worship
- Obedience
- Guarding what enters the mind

Matthew Henry once wrote that holiness is "our resemblance to God." That resemblance is formed slowly through faithful devotion and mom's and dad's have the greatest influence.

III. Be Holy For I Am Holy!

1 Peter 1:15-16

13 So prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world. 14 So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then. 15 But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. 16 For the Scriptures say, "You must be holy because I am holy.

The Puritans didn't ask, "Did you invite Jesus into your heart?"

They Puritans would ask:

Do you have new affections? Love your Savior above all else!

Do you hate your sin? Hate your sin fully!

Do you hunger for holiness? Hunger to do what is right before God for his glory and the salvation of others!

1 Peter 1:17-25

17 And remember that the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites. He will judge or reward you according to what you do. So you must live in reverent fear of him during your time here as "temporary residents." 18 For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. 19 It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. 20 God chose him as your ransom long before the world began, but now in these last days he has been revealed for your sake.

21 Through Christ you have come to trust in God. And you have placed your faith and hope in God because he raised Christ from the dead and gave him great glory.

22 You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart.

23 For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God. 24 As the Scriptures say,

"People are like grass; their beauty is like a flower in the field. The grass withers and the flower fades. 25 But the word of the Lord remains forever." And that word is the Good News that was preached to you.

The greatest legacy is not wealth, success, popularity, or achievement.
The greatest legacy is a life pointing others to Jesus.

A mother living in holiness...

- prays when others panic,
- trusts when others fear,
- forgives when others harden,
- serves when others demand,
- and shines when the world grows darker.

Jimmy Ruth Fortenberry - Passed away last month in Columbia Mississippi. Her son Wayne is my brother-in-law. A great niece, one of Jimmie Ruth's 50 grandchildren, spoke at her great grandmothers celebration of life. She told several stories of moments when they needed God's help and when her grandmother prayed and how God answered. The greatest testimony you can give your children is not your words or even your actions but it is God's response to prayers you pray with them!!!

The world does not need more polished Christians.
The world needs holy believers devoted fully to Christ.

Next Steps: Let go of what's pulling you away and follow Jesus fully daily.

Life Application:

1. What are some subtle ways worldliness can influence your home today?
2. How is holiness different from legalism or isolation? What can you do to insulate your family from the impact of the world?
3. What habits have you developed or can you add to your family routine, that will help renew the mind?
4. In what ways do parents and grandparents shape the spiritual atmosphere of a home/family?
5. What worldly influences and pressures most commonly pull believers away from devotion to Christ?
6. How does staying close to Jesus gradually transform a believer? What steps can you take and lead others to take to be transformed into the likeness of Jesus?
7. What practical step can you take this week to pursue holiness more intentionally?