

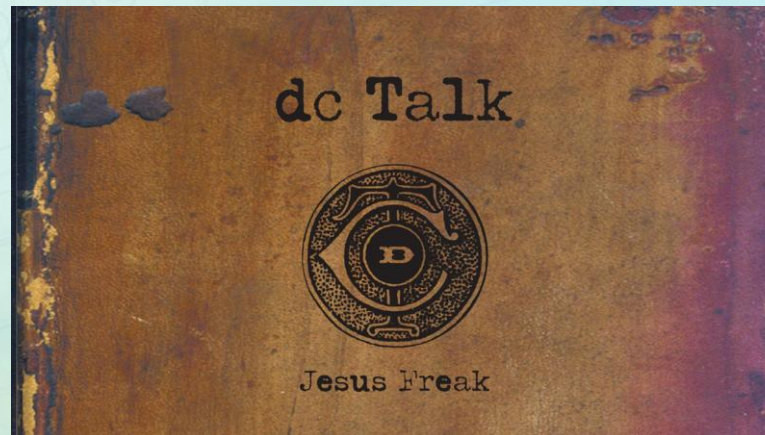


“I like your Christ. I don’t like
your Christians. Your Christians
are so unlike your Christ.”
Mohandas Gandhi



“The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians who acknowledge Jesus with their lips and then walk out the door and deny him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable.”

Quote featured on DC Talk song *What If I Stumble?*



What about Christians behaving badly?

ESSENTIAL MARKS OF THE CHURCH
ONE / HOLY / CATHOLIC / APOSTOLIC



ESSENTIAL MARKS OF THE CHURCH

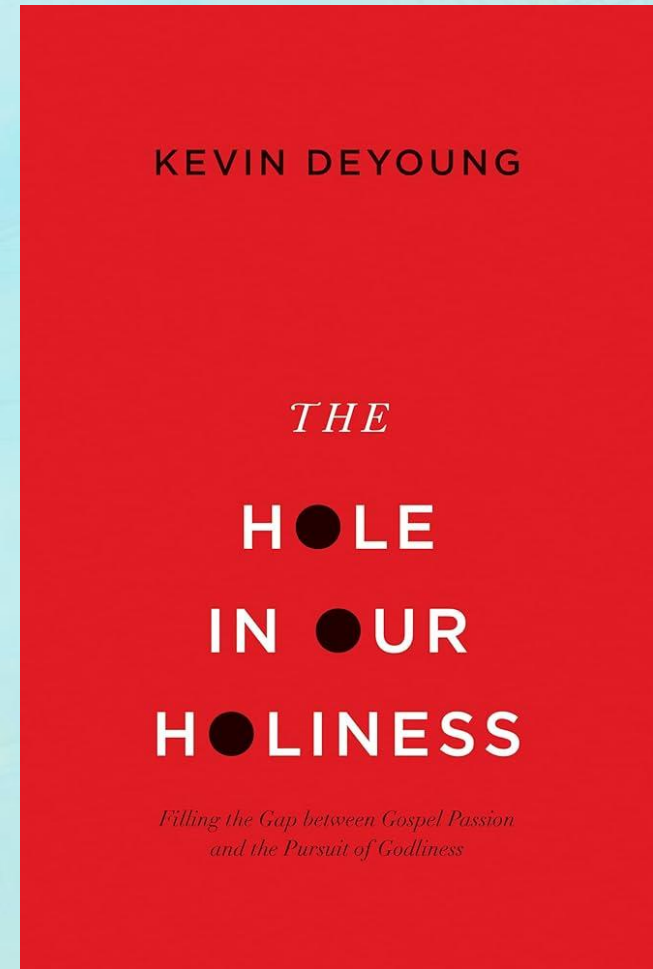


ONE // HOLY // CATHOLIC // APOSTOLIC

Holiness is Important

“You cannot make sense out of the Bible without understanding that God is holy and this holy God is intent on making a holy people to live with him forever in a holy heaven...”

Kevin DeYoung,
The Hole in Our Holiness

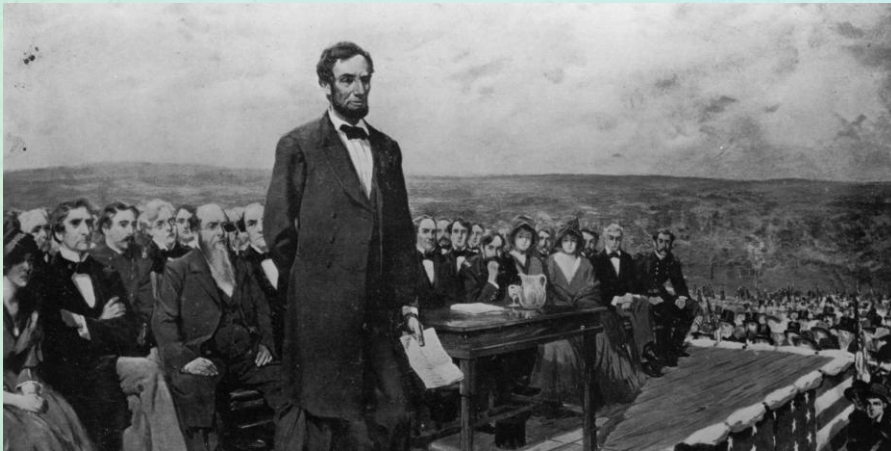


ESSENTIAL MARKS OF THE CHURCH
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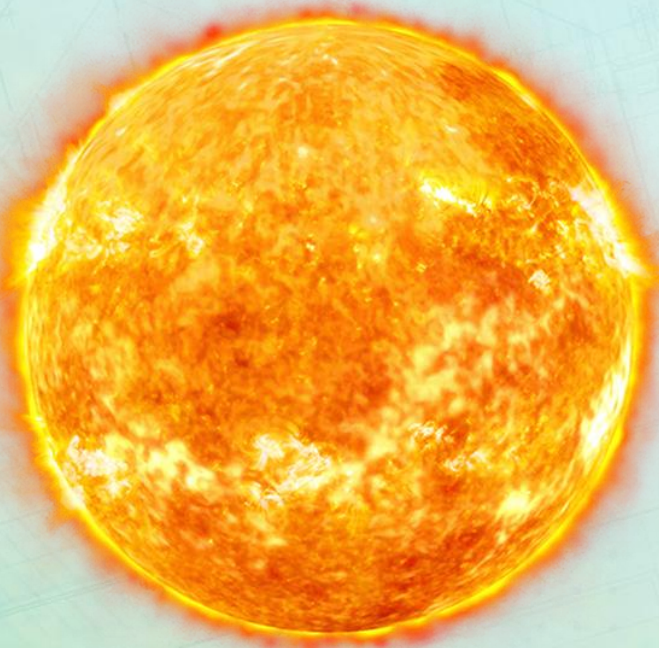
What Does Holiness Mean?

Spatial Aspect: Separated, set apart



What Does Holiness Mean?

Moral Aspect: Devoted to God's glory



The Church is HOLY

What does that mean?

What does that mean for you?



⁹ Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (ESV)



The Church is Holy – What Does That Mean?

Two Indicative Statements

1. The unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10



The Church is Holy – What Does That Mean?

Two Indicative Statements

2. Believers have been made holy

And such were some of you. But *you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified* in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Corinthians 6:11



The Church is Holy – What Does That Mean?

You Were *Washed*

“...wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.”

Psalms 51:7b

“...the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”

1 John 1:7b



The Church is Holy – What Does That Mean?

You Were Sanctified

- Set apart as God's holy children
- Restored to a wonderful purpose

You shall be holy to me,
for I the LORD am holy and
have separated you from
the peoples, that you
should be mine.

Leviticus 20:26



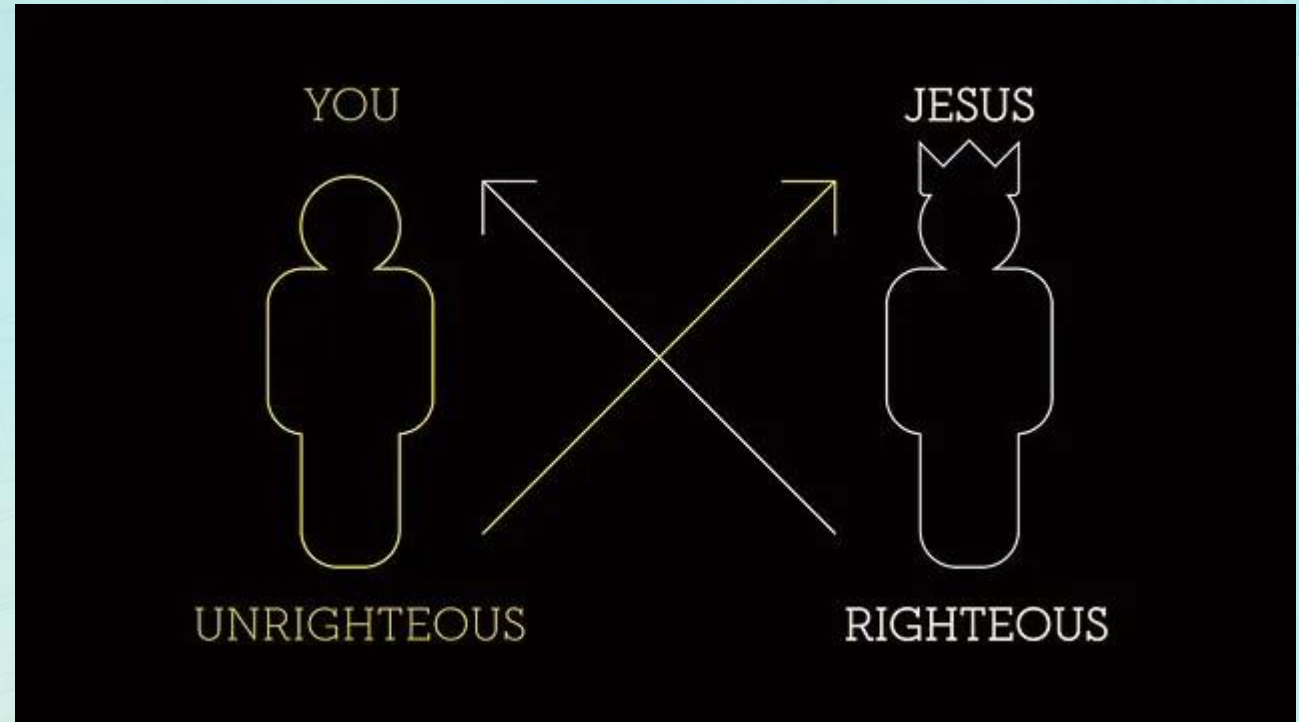
The Church is Holy – What Does That Mean?

You Were Justified

To render a favorable verdict

...you were justified *in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ* and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Corinthians 6:11b



The Church is Holy – What Does That Mean?

- We have “a holy calling” (2 Tim 1:9)
- We have been “set apart as holy” (2 Tim 2:21)
- We have been chosen to “be holy” (Eph 1:4)
- We are “God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved” (Col 3:12)
- We are described as “a holy priesthood” (1 Peter 2:5), “a holy nation” (1 Peter 2:9), and a holy temple (1 Cor 3:17; Eph 2:21)
- We are repeatedly referred to as “saints” or holy ones



The Church is Holy – What Does That Mean?

Definitive Sanctification	Progressive Sanctification
<p>A once-for-all act of God, by which believers are set apart as holy in union with Christ.</p>	<p>The ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in the believer's life, conforming them more and more into the likeness of Christ through a gradual process.</p>



The Church is Holy – What Does That Mean For You?

In Christ, you are holy

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession...

1 Peter 2:9

In Christ, you have a responsibility to pursue holiness

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

2 Corinthians 7:1



The Church is Holy – What Does That Mean For You?

Problem #1 - We Want God But Not Holiness

- Apathetic or even negative attitude towards holiness and obedience

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe (obey/keep) all that I have commanded you.

Matthew 28:19-20a



The Church is Holy – What Does That Mean For You?

Problem #2 - We Want Holiness But Not God

- Think it is mainly about obeying rules and being a good person
- There are various reasons to obey rules besides pleasing God
- True holiness is about devotion to the Lord



The Church is Holy – What Does That Mean For You?

Three Ways the Church Helps Us Grow in Holiness

1. The preaching and teaching of God's Word

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

John 17:17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17



The Church is Holy – What Does That Mean For You?

Three Ways the Church Helps Us Grow in Holiness

2. Discipling Relationships (Intentional Spiritual Friendships)

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:1

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:24-25



The Church is Holy – What Does That Mean For You?

Three Ways the Church Helps Us Grow in Holiness

3. Sacraments – Baptism & the Lord's Supper

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:4

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11:26

