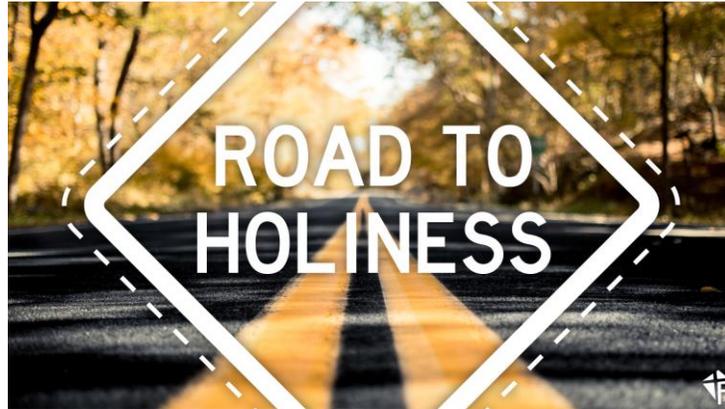


FELLOWSHIP NOTES ~ Sunday, May 16th, 2021
Spring Spiritual Growth Emphasis



Part 6: "Crossing the Line"

For next Sunday, May 23rd: Study and pray through pages 58-65 in *Returning to Holiness*.

For Further Study – In Fellowship Café

Book: *Returning to Holiness* by Greg Frizzell

Book: *The Pursuit of Holiness* by Jerry Bridges

Book: *Habits for Our Holiness* by Philip Nation

The Consequences of Sin

1. Sin quenches the Holy Spirit's _____ in our life – 1 Thess. 5:19
2. Sin quenches our ability to _____ with Christ
_____ - 1 John 1:3,6
_____ - James 1:22-24; Psalm 1:1-2
_____ - 1 John 3:22; Psalm 66:18; 1 Peter 3:7b
3. Sin robs our _____ – Psalm 51:12
4. Sin steals our _____ – Philippians 4:7; Colossians 3:15
5. Sin invites the _____ of God – Heb. 12:10
6. Sin keeps us from a life of _____ – 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19-20;
Rom. 12:1-2; Ephesians 5:25-27
7. Sin results in a loss of _____ to serve God and be used by Him –
1 Peter 2:9

Growth Group Study Guide

Getting Started:

Ever hear of “Dirty Dining”? It was a series of news reports on a local TV station where a reporter visited various restaurants and gave a behind-the-scenes look at the cleanliness of a restaurant, or lack thereof. Have you ever had a “dirty dining” experience yourself (dirty dishes, utensils or surroundings, not-so delicious looking food, etc.)? Tell of an experience like this you’ve had.

Digging Deeper:

1. Just as each of us demands clean dishes or utensils when we eat, so in the same way, God demands that we live holy lives so He can use us for His purposes. Take a moment to review from the Sunday morning notes the consequences of sin to our lives.

Describe the steep impact and the price we pay when we allow habits or patterns of sin in our lives to go unchecked through confession and repentance? _____

2. Holiness can be defined on two levels. *Positional holiness* is what God imparts to us when we become His children at salvation. Since God is holy and we are sinners, we are reconciled to God by the blood of Christ shed on the cross. Read Colossians 1:19-22.

God imparts Christ’s righteousness to us and makes us holy and blameless before Him. That’s our spiritual position in Christ. We have been separated from sin and set apart for God.

The second level of holiness is *Personal holiness* (or practical holiness). Personal holiness is the outworking and fruit of positional holiness. It is evidenced in the way we think and live. Because we belong to God and His Holy Spirit indwells us, we are commanded and divinely equipped to live according to His will every day, in every way. This lesson primarily deals with this second level of holiness.

3. Read the following Scriptures and record and discuss what each teaches about holiness:

Hebrews 12:14 _____

Ephesians 1:3-4 _____

1 Peter 2:9-12 _____

Isaiah 6:1-7 _____



4. Read Ephesians 5:25-27.

Picture this: It's a perfect summer day. Friends and family have gathered to share in the joyful occasion. The decorations are elegant, and the mood is festive. Today the bride and groom will give their lives to each other. As the music begins to play the congregation stands and turns to face the beautiful bride walking down the center aisle. Then, a gasp. The bride clumsily staggers in with curlers in her hair and dressed in sweatpants. She blurts out to everyone, "I'm sorry. I forgot what today was!" Sounds utterly ridiculous, doesn't it? What bride forgets her wedding? However, in similar fashion, how many Christians forget that they are the bride of Christ? How many forget that the Lord Jesus himself has promised to return to take His bride to the home he is preparing in heaven. At that future time there will a great wedding feast and celebration.

The apostle Paul describes in Ephesians 5 the bridegroom's heart for His bride and His express desire for the wedding day yet to come. According to the verses you read, why did Jesus die, and what is His objective for His bride, the church? _____

Sadly, many Christians today live as if they've forgotten about the wedding. Right now, we, the church – the bride, are preparing to meet our bridegroom by becoming holy. Holiness for us then should be a life-long preparation process and intense motivation for every child of God for when He returns for us.

How important is "getting ready for the wedding" in your thinking and in your daily life?

___ Truthfully, I am pretty much preoccupied with the life here and now; I don't spend much time or focus on becoming holy or getting ready to meet Christ.

___ I give some thought and effort to becoming holy and preparing for Christ's return, but often find myself distracted and consumed with things of this earth.

___ I love the Lord Jesus, and while I am far from perfect, I am excited about His return, and am actively seeking to "get ready for the wedding" by pursuing holiness.

Though we don't know when Christ will return, the Scriptures tells us how to live now in preparation for our heavenly inheritance. Read 1 Peter 1:13-16.

5. Take turns reading aloud the following list of comparative statements about the difference between hypocrites and people who are truly holy.

Holy people behave in certain ways because they love God.

Hypocrites behave in certain ways because they want others to think they love God.

Holy people are concerned about being pleasing to God – inside and out.

Hypocrites are concerned about how they are perceived by others.

Holy people have a heart to love and serve others, regardless of their socio-economic status

Hypocrites like to associate with “movers and shakers” and the “up and coming,” to enhance their own standing.

Holy people bow to the authority of Scripture and live radically obedient lives. Hypocrites will excuse disobedience to the Word of God through use of pious-sounding logic, while slavishly adhering to their own man-made rules and standards.

Holy people give themselves unreservedly to God and are patient with others who are still in process.

Hypocrites expect more from others than they are willing to give of themselves.

Holy people have a humble estimation of themselves because God is their standard. Hypocrites compare themselves to others and develop a spiritual superiority complex.

Holy people base their convictions on the standard of God’s Word.

Hypocrites exalt personal preferences and human traditions to a position of equal (or greater) authority with the Word of God.

Holy people are real.

Hypocrites pretend to do things they don’t; to abstain from things they do; to love things they hate; to hate things they love; to want things they dread; to dread things they want.

As you reflect on the above statements, what comes to your mind about holiness and hypocritical living? For application: How can believers be delivered from hypocrisy and move toward living more authentic holy lives for God’s glory?

Wrapping it Up

Continue studying and praying through our companion book [Returning to Holiness](#). This week work through page 65. Let’s also continue to fast and pray together for our Road to Holiness Emphasis that God will continue to work in our hearts and lives in regard to sin, cleansing and holy living (use prayer requests on the back of the reading schedule).

Mark your calendar for our churchwide Sacred Assembly
Sunday, June 13th – 6:00 p.m.