

HOW HOLY IS HOLINESS?
Pastor Rick Reager - November 9, 2025

I. BIBLICAL TRUTH ABOUT HOLINESS

1. CHRIST FOLLOWERS ARE CALLED TO _____

¹⁵But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God—who chose you to be his children—is holy.

¹⁶For he himself has said, ‘You must be holy because I am holy.’” 1 Peter 1:15-16

⁷God has called us to be holy, not to live impure lives. ⁸Anyone who refuses to live by these rules is not disobeying human rules but is rejecting God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.” 1 Thessalonians 4:7-8

¹²Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to its lustful desires. ¹³Do not let any part of your body become a tool of wickedness, to be used for sinning. Instead, give yourselves completely to God since you have been given new life. And use your whole body as a tool to do what is right for the glory of God.” Romans 6:12-13

II. HOW HOLY MUST I BE?

1. AS HOLY _____

⁶Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.” 1 John 2:6

KEY: He was Set Apart For His _____

⁴²Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.” Luke 22:42

III. BUT WHAT IS HOLINESS ALL ABOUT?

1. THREE KEY ASPECTS OF HOLINESS:

i. _____

ii. _____

iii. _____

2. HOW DO THESE WORK TOGETHER?

i. I Gain Complete Righteousness, Through _____

⁹I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God’s way of making us right with himself depends on faith.” Philippians 3:9

ii. I Work At Moral Purity Out Of My _____

⁵But those who obey God’s word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. ⁶Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.” 1 John 2:5-6

iii. I Stay Away From The World & Live Out God’s Purpose As One Who _____

“¹⁹ Don’t you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, ²⁰ for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.” 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

“¹¹ Dear friends, I warn you as “temporary residents and foreigners” to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls.” 1 Peter 2:11

IV. HOW MIGHT I PURSUE HOLINESS?

RIGHTEOUSNESS THROUGH JESUS CHRIST: (THIS TAKES _____)

1. RECEIVE THE _____

“⁶ We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall, and our sins sweep us away like the wind.” Isaiah 64:6

“²¹ For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.” 2 Corinthians 5:21 “²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (ESV)

2. REST IN THE FACT THAT MY SINS HAVE BEEN _____

“⁹ I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God’s way of making us right with himself depends on faith.” Philippians 3:9

3. THANK & GLORIFY JESUS FOR _____ FOR MY RIGHTEOUSNESS

“¹ ... let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. ² We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.” Hebrews 12:1-2

“³ All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. ⁴ Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. ⁵ God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. ⁶ So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. ⁷ He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. ⁸ He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.” Ephesians 1:3-8

FOR MORAL PURITY (THIS TAKES _____):

“¹² Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. ¹³ For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.” Philippians 2:12-13

1. COMMIT TO LIVE ACCORDING TO _____

“⁹ How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. ¹⁰ I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. ¹¹ I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. ¹² Praise be to you, O LORD; teach me your decrees. ¹³ With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth. ¹⁴ I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches. ¹⁵ I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. ¹⁶ I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.” Psalm 119:9-16

“¹⁶ Don’t you realize that whatever you choose to obey becomes your master? You can choose sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God and receive his approval.” Romans 6:16

KEY: See Sin _____!

2. MANAGE ALL _____

“¹⁴ A wise person is hungry for truth, while the fool feeds on trash.” Proverbs 15:14

“³⁷ Turn my eyes from worthless things, and give me life through your word.” Psalm 119:37

“³ I will refuse to look at anything vile and vulgar.” Psalms 101:3

“¹⁴ For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?” 2 Corinthians 6:14

3. MAINTAIN A POSITIVE & PURE _____

“²³ Be careful how you think, your life is shaped by your thoughts.” Proverbs 4:23

“¹⁹ Keep your mind on what is right.” Proverbs 23:19

“² Do not conform any longer 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 12:2

“⁸ And now, dear brothers and sisters, let me say one more thing as I close this letter. Fix your thoughts on what is true and honorable and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.” Philippians 4:8

4. MINIMIZE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR _____

i. Know _____

“¹² If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall.” 1 Corinthians 10:12

“Be careful. If you’re thinking, ‘Oh, I’d never behave like that’ -- let this be a warning to you. For you too may fall into sin.” (LB)

ii. Choose My _____ Carefully

“³³ Don’t be fooled by those who say such things, for “bad company corrupts good character.” 1 Corinthians 15:33

iii. Establish Some _____

“¹¹ But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.” 1 Timothy 6:11

5. QUICKLY CONFESS _____

“¹³ People who cover over their sins will not prosper. But if they confess and forsake them, they will receive mercy.” Proverbs 28:13

*“⁹ But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong.
¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.” 1 John 1:9-10*

6. ABIDE IN CHRIST & LET GOD _____

“⁵ ‘Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Anyone who parts from me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. ⁷ But if you stay joined to me and my words remain in you, you may ask any request you like, and it will be granted! ⁸ My true disciples produce much fruit. This brings great glory to my Father. ⁹ ‘I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. ¹⁰ When you obey me, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father and remain in his love.’” John 15:5-10

“¹⁶ So I advise you to live according to your new life in the Holy Spirit. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves. ¹⁷ The old sinful nature loves to do evil, which is just opposite from what the Holy Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are opposite from what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, and your choices are never free from this conflict.” Galatians 5:16-17

7. MAKE A HABIT OF SAYING _____ TO GOD

“²³ Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me.” Luke 9:23

“²² But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.” James 1:22

“¹⁷ Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.” James 4:17

“¹³ But remember that the temptations that come into your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can’t stand up against it. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you will not give in to it.” 1 Corinthians 10:13

TO REMAIN SET APART (THIS TAKES _____):

1. REFUSE TO LOVE THE WORLD OR BE SUCKED INTO ITS _____

“² Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.” Romans 12:2

“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 2:15-17

“⁸ Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.” 1 Peter 5:8

“⁷ So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.” James 4:7-8

2. ADOPT GOD’S _____

“¹⁰ For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” Ephesians 2:10

“¹ Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.” Ephesians 4:1

3. LET CHRIST LIVE _____

“²⁰ My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” Galatians 2:20

“²⁰ for God bought you with a high price.” 1 Corinthians 6:20