

Holy

(Gk.40- sacred [physically pure, morally blameless or religious, ceremonially consecrated]
(Gk.3741- hallowed [pious, sacred, sure])

1Pe 1:13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of **Jesus Christ**; 14 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: 15 But as **He Who hath called you is holy, so be ye holy** in all manner of conversation; 16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for **I** am holy. (*Lev 11:44*)

- How then do we become holy as **He** is holy if such is a command from **Him**? **God** never commands us to do something that would be impossible for us to accomplish. Otherwise **He** would not be the loving **God** **He** has proven **Himself** to be.

Joh 17:17 Sanctify (*Gk.37- to make holy*) them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth.

- The word of **God** that we find in the pages of the **Bible** contain our instructions in order to become holy as the **Godhead** is holy. But we must live, eat and breath what it says on this subject if we wish to live lives that mimic **God's** holiness.

Mat 4:4 But **He** answered and said, **It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.**

- On Wednesday evenings we are looking at the book “That We May Share His Holiness”, by Tommy South, so we can better understand the subject of discipline which can only be practiced **Biblically** when we understand the true nature of fellowship. The more personal the fellowship the less the likelihood of having to discipline. But is discipline always to be understood as being negative? It often brings to view a scowling father with a belt in his hand or a school teacher carrying “the board of education” that was once used to knock the devilment out of unruly, disruptive students. Under the **Old Covenant** with **Israel** parental discipline went as far as stoning their offspring if it came to that.

Deu 21:18 If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and *that*, when they have chastened (*Heb.3256- chastise, literally [with blows] or figuratively [with words]; hence to instruct*) him, will not hearken unto them: 19 Then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the elders of his city (*in order to get the recognition of others*), and unto the gate of his place; 20 And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son *is* stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; *he is* a glutton, and a drunkard (*showing he was of an accountable age and not a child*). 21 And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all **Israel** shall hear, and fear.

- Many have cited these verses without merit to disclaim the **Bible** as not coming from a loving **God** when it comes to disciplining children. But of course in the context it was written concerning an adult child, living under the direct influence of the parents, who was disregarding the law concerning his behavior toward them.

Deu 5:16 Honour thy father and thy mother, as the **LORD** thy **God** hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the **LORD** thy **God** giveth thee.

- These were, once again, God's instructions to a nation that was, at that time, to be a "holy people" to Him.

Deu 7:6 For thou *art* an holy (*Heb.6918- sacred*) people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto Himself, above all people that *are* upon the face of the earth. 7 The LORD did not set His love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye *were* the fewest of all people: 8 But because the LORD loved you, and because He would keep the oath which He had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

- But what does "holiness" have to do with us as His chosen people today, the "spiritual" "Israel of God" (*Gal 6:16*)? How are we to attain it? And is it always something to be grasped from a negative understanding?

Heb 12:5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise (*Gk.3643- to have little regard for*) not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint (*Thayer: to despond [lose hope], become faint-hearted*) when thou art rebuked of Him:

- The Hebrew writer makes note of the fact that we aren't to have such little respect toward those things that would humble us before God as though they were trivial. In the context chastening is how God leads us away from self-destruction through our own dangerous actions and/or attitudes. It literally has to do with being tutored, educated or trained even if it were to take disciplinary correction to accomplish it. When such times come, we are encouraged to not lose hope. God isn't allowing such for reasons other than to build us up, make us stronger and bring us into a closer relationship with Him. To be more like Him.

Heb 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth.

- How many times have we heard the phrase "this is going to hurt me more than it's going to hurt you"? If we understand God as our father and we as His children, discipline did, literally, hurt Him more than it will ever hurt us when He gave His Son to take our punishment.

Isa 53:4 Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But He *was* wounded for our transgressions, He *was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.

- God gave the most precious thing a father could give when He gave His own Son to keep us from an eternal Hell, He loved us so much. So when trials and tribulations come we should always look at them as His way of telling us something. Maybe we won't know right away what exactly that is, maybe we never will, but if we understand and believe what the Bible says about them, we will be thankful to God for them.

Deu 29:29 The secret *things belong* unto the LORD our God: but those *things which are revealed belong* unto us and to our children forever, that *we may do* all the words of this law.

- Ultimately, **His** tutoring us, through whatever means and to whatever degree, only helps us better see how **He** loves us as only our **God** could.

Heb 12:7 If ye endure chastening, **God** dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

- How often have we been in the supermarket at the checkout, where strategically placed are those child magnets known as candy bars, and an unruly brat was throwing a fit so bad that his parent only appeased him to keep him quiet by buying him whatever it was that he had his sights set on? Do we say “Wow, what a good mom!” Or do we get a little miffed over how that child has been trained to understand that throwing fits gets him whatever he wants. “Oh but you don’t understand how difficult it is to be a mom these days!” Well, enlighten those of us who’ve been in the same situation and have been there, done that and dealt with it. It only gets harder the longer you allow it! Maybe if he was taught earlier on that throwing a fit wouldn’t get him anywhere, that he would be disciplined right there in front of those present to the point of embarrassment, he may have gotten the point long ago. It is always easier to use positive discipline when they are young instead of waiting until they’ve already been trained in the negative when older.

Pro 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

- How would any of us like to think that what we were taught as kids, maybe it was a certain immoral lifestyle, wasn’t really right? How would we feel toward our parents then? What kind of respect would we have for them? That’s why it is so important to train them up early to understand right and wrong so that when they reach adulthood it might just be easier for them to do the right thing with their own families. Now, picture **God** as the **Parent** and we as the children in the same scenario at the checkout line. Get the picture?

Heb 12:8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards (*Gk.3541- a spurious [false] or illegitimate son; Thayer: “not in lawful wedlock, but of a concubine or female slave”*), and not sons [*children*].

- The whole idea of someone being “the red headed step child” brings to mind what this passage is trying to convey; someone who is without proper discipline and considered an outcast in society who has no place within a structured, well maintained family dynamic. (*Not that all red-headed stepchildren are like that either.*) If we feel we have no need to be taught, then we must think we “know it all”.

Heb 12:9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected *us*, and we gave *them* reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the **Father** of spirits, and live?

- If we treated our physical fathers with respect after they physically corrected us, even though such correction would never secure for us a home in **Heaven**, how much more should we obey our **Father in Heaven Who** holds the keys to **His** spiritual home that awaits those **He** has disciplined?

Heb 12:10 For they verily for a few days chastened *us* after their own pleasure; but **He** for *our* profit, that *we* might be partakers of **His** holiness (*Gk.41- sanctity [that is, properly the state]: -holiness*).

- Sometimes our parents may have corrected us harshly out of reacting to our behavior in anger. Sometimes maybe they didn't quite know the circumstances surrounding a certain incident where they flew off the handle before getting the facts about why we were late getting home one evening or why we didn't come straight home after studying with a classmate. They did it anyway "as they saw fit, whether right or wrong" (pg.15). But God is never inconsistent in His correction. His ultimate goal is for us to share in what makes Him so different from us. His holiness, His state of sanctity or sacredness. And such holiness is never to be found within each of us until we get it through being in Christ. And once we get it we have to work hard to keep it if we want to please Him and be more like Him every day.

Heb 12:11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

- When we suffer the trials of life, for what may seem as an eternity, there is purpose. If there wasn't we would suffer such in vain. That might be easier said than done depending on the trial, its length and severity along with the circumstances surrounding it. But as long as we are focused on helping others and taking care of their needs, God has said...

Heb 13:5 ... I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. 6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Heb 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Other attributes of God that He desires for us to possess.

Anger

Eph 4:26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: 27 Neither give place to the devil.

- Christianity is not to be understood as a pacifistic religion. Not that we are to take up arms and fight our warfare by earthly means either. Our weaponry is spiritual, known as "the sword of the Spirit" (Eph 6:17) and we are to arm ourselves with it, honing it to keep it sharp for the spiritual battles we must wage and should be waging. We are to have such righteous indignation toward any and all false teachings that go against the righteousness of God. But also...

Mat 5:22 ...whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment...

We can be angry with fellow Christians, but only when we have reason to be. And not for our own justification but toward the other's salvation.

Zeal

Joh 2:13 And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem, 14 And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting: 15 And when He had made a scourge of small cords, He drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables; 16 And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not My Father's house an house

of merchandise. 17 And His disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of Thine house hath eaten Me up.

- Just as Christ was zealous over the cleansing of the Old Testament temple, we also are to have such ardor for the purity of the New Testament temple, the church. Without such she can and will become spotted with the influences of the world around her. How else can Christ “present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that she should be holy and without blemish.” (Eph 5:27) And we all are to be on the same page when it comes to implementing the word of truth in keeping her so pure. Thus our unity is an attribute that the Father desires to share with us as was Jesus’ prayer in the garden before His crucifixion.

Unity

Joh 17:21 That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us: that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me.

- Our “one-ness” with the Godhead depends entirely on our being like Them through our obtaining Their holiness. Such holiness comes from being in Christ, our own self-discipline and the welcome discipline we receive from the brethren. We welcome such discipline, giving the impression that we are to desire it, because the lack of it “is a distinctly un-God-like characteristic” (pg.16). And don’t we want to be more like God? The only place we can obtain that righteous characteristic is in Christ.

Righteousness

1Co 1:30 But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, Who of God is made unto us (spiritual) wisdom, and righteousness (Gk.1343- [Christian] justification), and sanctification (Gk.38- purification, that is, [the state] purity: -holiness), and redemption (Gk.629- [the act] ransom in full, that is, [specifically] Christian salvation: -deliverance): 31 That, according as it is written, He that glories (Gk.2744- to vaunt: -[make] boast, rejoice), let him glory in the Lord.

- Since God sent Jesus, for the purpose of becoming “the propitiation (Gk.2434- atonement) for our sins” (1 Jn 4:10) we, through our obedience to His will, being immersed into Christ, thus putting Him on in baptism (Gal 3:27) are then “in Christ Jesus”. Only then can we obtain the attributes listed in this verse: wisdom, justification, purification, which is also to be understood as where our holiness lies, and salvation.

An attribute of God that we are not to possess.

Vengeance

- Only God is to be considered just when He metes out His wrath in vengeance toward those who will not submit themselves to His will, which is that none “should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Pet 3:9). Some Christians claim to not have such a vengeful spirit but their attitudes and actions say otherwise. Remember the older brother in Jesus’ parable of the prodigal son (Lk 15)? How he became angry and wouldn’t participate in the celebration over his once lost brother who was now found? He didn’t recognize his younger sibling as his brother but referred to him to his father as “thy son” (v.30). He didn’t feel his repentant brother deserved to have anything since he went away and squandered all he was given through riotous living and harlotry. Are we any different when we have such vengeful

attitudes toward those that are not as “righteous” as we think they should be, as though we are their final Judge?

Rom 3:5 ...*Is God* unrighteous who taketh vengeance? (I speak as a man) 6 *God* forbid: for then how shall *God* judge the world?

- We all have been given a certain amount of time, known as a probation, to “seek the Lord, if haply (*Gk.1065- yet*) [we] might feel after Him (*showing our choice to search for Him; God knows our hearts and through His providence, nothing is done by chance, we will find Him, even if we aren’t looking at the time He’s found*), and find Him, though He be not far from every one of us: For in Him we live, and move, and have our being” (*Act 17:27-28*). Ultimately, our eternal destiny depends on how we view the necessity to seek Him, and once found, to obey His loving call to be holy, as He is holy. We can never obtain the level of holiness the Godhead possesses, but, once we’ve obtained a portion of it we are to maintain it through consistently laboring in His word and His kingdom.

Rom 12:19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is Mine*; I will repay, saith the Lord.

- “Let go and let God” take care of things. All we can do is pity and pray for those “*which despitefully use [us], and persecute [us]*” (*Mat 5:44*).

2Th 1:7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from Heaven with His mighty angels, 8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

- How do we “know...God, and...obey...the gospel of [the] Lord Jesus Christ”? To know Him is to have a covenant relationship with Him. To be in that relationship one first has to understand what the “gospel” means, what it entails and why this particular gospel is the only way to receive eternal salvation from God. It is “the” good news that everyone needs to hear since it is the only message that teaches the way to eternal life.

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is **the power of God unto salvation** to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

- God has set the parameters wherein we are to receive our salvation. He cannot and will not save outside those restrictions. In and of itself, it’s not good news that Jesus came, or that He lived and died, was buried and rose on the third day. All those events put together do not explain the gospel. What does clarify the message of the gospel is that all those things added together, along with the fact that Christ came “to give His life [as] a ransom for many” (*Mat 20:28*), explains the power behind this particular good news. “So then, how do I obey this particular gospel as it pertains to Christ?”

#1.Did you hear?

Mat 13:15 ... see with [your] eyes, and hear with [your] ears, and should understand with [your] heart ...

Luk 11:28 Jesus said, “... *blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep (Gk.5442- obey) it.*”

#2.Do you believe?

Eph 1:13 ... **after** that ye **heard** the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in **Whom** also **after** that ye **believed**, ye were [*can be*] **sealed** with that **Holy Spirit** of promise, **14** **Who** is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of **His** glory.

#3. Will you repent?

Mat 9:13 “... **I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.**”

Rom 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

#4. Will you acknowledge Christ as the Son of God?

Mat 10:32 “**Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father Who is in Heaven.**”

#5. Will you have your sins washed away?

Act 2:37 Now when they **heard** *this*, they were pricked in their heart (*because they believed what they heard*), and said unto **Peter** and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, **what shall we do?**

Act 2:38 Then **Peter** said unto them, “**Repent, and be baptized** every one of you **in the name of Jesus Christ** (*acknowledging His “Sonship”*) **for** the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the **Holy Ghost** (*the “earnest of our inheritance”*)”.

#6. Once you’ve done all these things, will you remain faithful?

1Co 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye **steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord**, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the **Lord**.

#7. Will you resolve to keep growing?

Php 1:9 And this I pray, that your love may **abound** yet **more and more in knowledge** and *in* all judgment; **10** That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may **be sincere** and without offence till the day of **Christ**; **11** Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by **Jesus Christ**, unto the glory and praise of **God**.

- The life of a **Christian** is one that shares in **God’s** holiness and the only place to receive **His** holiness is found in **Christ**. To be in **Christ** we are to be immersed into **Him**, being added to **His** body, the church, through obedience to baptism. It’s at that point that we receive a portion of **His** “holiness, without which no man shall see the **Lord**” (*Heb 12:14*).

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June 22, 2014

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