



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Be Wholly Holy

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THEME Be Holy

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

COME OUT AND BE SEPARATE

The world has certain expectations of Christians and when they hear that someone is a Christian, they might perhaps agree that the person in question is good, kind, peaceable, generous, patient, forgiving, compassionate, or any of these characteristics that they imagine Christians to be.

Most of these characteristics are thought of in a positive manner, and it is good and edifying to be acknowledged as having these characteristics.

There is however, one characteristic that is less positive than the rest. There is less of a positive reception when we tell others about how our God requires us to be Holy. And perhaps the world's reaction to this is exactly why, in 2 Corinthians 6, we are called not to be unequally yoked, but to come out and be separate from the rest of the world.

PERFECTING HOLINESS

1. THE COMMAND

In instructing us on holiness and setting ourselves apart for God's exclusive use, we are commanded, first of all, not to be unequally yoked together with unbelievers.

The yoke is a heavy piece of wood that secures the oxen to each other so that together, they might move in a common direction according to their owner's will, to plough straight paths through the fields for him. If one of the oxen decide that it does not share the same aims and plans as their owner and the other ox, and starts moving in its own direction, it would be almost impossible for the pair to plough straight paths. Should the one decide to sit down and not move, the other would likely only be able to plough in circles.

It is of no surprise, then, that we are commanded not to tie ourselves to others who may not share the same values, and who may not have the same heavenward view that we do.

2. THE PROMISES

In line with this command, God has also given very clear promises. That He will dwell in us. That He will walk among us. That He will be our God, and that we will be His people. That He will be a Father to us, and we will be His sons and daughters.

As we claim these promises, we will see how our lives will be marked by contrasts in our walk, in our wisdom, and in our worship.

3. THE CLEANSING

“Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” 2 Cor 7:1

And if that were not reason enough, here are a few more reasons why we seek perfect holiness.

- Because without Holiness, it is impossible to see God. (Heb 12:14)
- Because He is Holy. (1 Pet 1:15-16)
- Because He is Perfect. (Matt 5:48)
- Because He is Pure. (1 John 3:3)
- So that we may not sin. (1 John 2:1)
- In Obedience. (Phi 2:12-13)
- As it is well within our ability. (1 Cor 10:13)
- As He will fight for us. (Ex 14:14)
- In the fear of God. (Prov 3:7, Prov 8:13, Ecc 12:13-14)

CONCLUSION

Too many of us Christians sell God short. When God tells us that we should seek not to sin, we instead aim only to sin less when we should seek not to sin at all. We must first realise that holiness, or being wholly holy, is something that is within our capacity because His word assures us that we would be overcomers in Christ (Rev 2, 3).

God has provided us the means through which we cannot sin. Not because we are unable to, but because we have the ability to choose not to. Not because there is no temptation present in our lives, but because He has provided us with the power to overcome temptation.

As sons and daughters of the living God, let us be set apart for God, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

QUESTIONS

Read through 2 Corinthians 6:14—7:1. What are God's three main messages for us and why is it important that we identify them?

What are some specific areas of life that you seek a breakthrough in? How has this affected you and/or others around you?

We are to be perfect just as our Heavenly Father is. With regards to the previous question, how can you seek to walk towards holiness and what are some steps you would like to take going forward?