

PLAY 1 : Holiness

But like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

1 Peter 1:15-16 - NASB

Holiness means to separate, or to be set apart. A linebacker is taught to create separation from a blocker so he can be in position to execute and make the tackle. God commands Christians to be separated from ungodliness so we can execute His perfect will.

Holiness is being fully devoted to God, set aside for God's special purpose and separated from the evils of this world. How do we do this? When we act according to God's moral commands and execute His will, we separate ourselves from the world. When we separate ourselves from the world, God can use us in a mighty way, but if we hold on to an unholy way of life, we will never experience holiness.

"Holiness...consists of that internal change of renovation of our souls whereby our minds, affections and wills are brought into harmony with God."

*A.W. Pink — The Doctrine of Sanctification
(Swengel, Pennsylvania, Bible Truth Depot, 1955, pg. 25)*

The word "holy" is found in the Bible more than 600 times; an entire book of the Bible (Leviticus) is devoted to the subject: "For I am the LORD your God. **You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy.** Neither shall you defile yourselves with any creeping thing that creeps on the earth. For I am the LORD who brings you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God. **You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy**" Leviticus 11:44-45 - NKJV.

We Must Abide or Remain in Christ

In football, a team's ability to remain ahead of their opponent results in victory. A Christian's ability to remain in Christ or be Spirit-filled, results in holiness, "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love." (John 15:10 NKJV). The word "abide" means to remain, and as God's men, we must train ourselves to abide in Christ. In order to abide in Him we must keep His commandments and be obedient (1 John 2:2-6). Jerry Bridges says, "Holiness is conformity to the character of God." We are to become what I call a "3C-Christian": Conformed to the Character of Christ.

3C-Christian
EXPERIENCING HOLINESS
requires that you
become a "3C-Christian":
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Pursuing Holiness

The book of Hebrews stresses the pursuit of holiness: "Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14 NKJV). Pursuing something is an attitude combined with desire and constant action until one has reached the goal. The word pursue is a key word for reaching holiness, and this pursuit comes in the form of training. Even more important than pursuing a destination--God desires for us to pursue a relationship with Jesus. Spiritual training produces the ability to know and execute God's will. To pursue holiness, one must turn his back on sin and live by faith in the promises of Christ.

"The will to win is important, but the will to prepare is vital."

Joe Paterno

God Equips Us for Holiness

Just like football players are issued equipment to be effective on the gridiron, God gives each Christian the spiritual resources to be holy in the person of the Holy Spirit, God's loving grace, and the Holy Scriptures. We must train ourselves to use this "equipment" properly through prayer, worship, thoughts, actions, obedience and study.

We will only realize the Holy Spirit's power in our lives through our pursuit of and commitment to holiness. Remember: We are called to be holy in all of our conduct. Since we now have the Holy Spirit dwelling inside of us, we are no longer ignorant of the things of God and must begin to act accordingly out of love.

Christ's obedience to the Father and His righteousness (not our own effort) is why we can be holy (Romans 5:19). It would be fair to say that you cannot pursue holiness while you are living in sin. So if you are living in sin, confess your sins to the Lord and to a brother in Christ today! 🙏

