

Living Like You Belong to God Introduction

In today's churches, the concept of *holiness* seems a bit archaic or "old school." On rare occasions when the word *holy* comes into conversation, most people picture a preacher in a robe or a woman wearing a long skirt and her hair in a bun—individuals whose lives are devoid of fun, joy and laughter.

Perhaps you associate the concept with an offensive holier-than-thou attitude sported by some self-appointed member of the piety police. Or does the word holy bring a sense of defeat and discouragement at the thought of the perfect life you know you will never attain?

Our goal in this study is to turn those misguided notions on their heads and help you see that, in fact, a life of true holiness is the key to true happiness. Rather than some arbitrary standard set by the church or an unreachable goal of sinless perfection, holiness is about pleasing God and about living in such a way that it's clear you belong to Him. Holiness is what makes the believer unique and easily distinguishable from the unbeliever.

Although it's been neglected in recent years, holiness is a biblical idea, one that is mentioned over six hundred times in the Bible. It is even the key theme for some of the books in the Bible, such as Leviticus. If holiness is such a basic biblical concept, then we should know what it is and what it is supposed to look like in our lives.

In the next six weeks we will learn what holiness is, what God thinks about it, and how the practice of holiness should guide the daily life of the believer.

Lesson Topics for This Series:

1. Week One: A God Who Separates Light from Darkness
(Genesis 1:1-5; Leviticus 21:6; 1 Peter 2:5, 9)
2. Week Two: We Belong to a Holy God
(Exodus 3:2-6; Deuteronomy 28:9; Leviticus 20:26; Isaiah 6:3)
3. Week Three: Our Call to Live Differently from the World
(Leviticus 11:41-47; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1)
4. Week Four: God's Purpose in Setting Us Apart
(1 Peter 1:13-16; 1 Peter 2:9-10; Matthew 5:16)
5. Week Five: Living Daily in the Light
(1 Corinthians 3:16-17; Romans 1:7; John 8:12)

6. Week Six: What Holiness Looks Like in Our Relationships
(Ephesians 5:22, 25; Colossians 3:18,19; 1 Peter 2:18-20)

Here is a “Launching Pad” for this study:

*“But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;
Because it is written, Be Ye Holy: For I Am Holy” (1 Peter 1:15-16)*

“Let’s be doers of the word and not hearers only deceiving our own selves.”