

**LEVITICUS 11:45** 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***

**HEBREWS 12:14** ***Pursue*** peace with all people, and ***holiness***, without which no one will see the Lord

- Recap: last week we spoke about the fact that Holiness is not something that can only be achieved one day in heaven, or something that is for an elect few, but God has called everyone to be holy. We looked at the fact that the church must be different from the world and that Jesus wants a pure spotless bride when He returns. We discussed that grace was never meant to be a “license” to carry on sinning.

- ***LIVING SEPERATE***

- The root word for holiness, among other things means to be “separate”

- ***Holiness, which is a life long quest, has 3 phases*** (Dr Bruce Wilkinson: Personal Holiness in Times of Temptation)

1. Separate in God’s mind: **1 PETER 2:9** But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who ***called you out of darkness*** into His marvelous light

- This part has already been done, in God’s mind

2. Separate in the Christian’s mind: **ROMANS 12:1** beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service

- This is the decision every individual has to make.

3. Separate to God in the life of the Christian: **2 CORINTHIANS 6:17** Therefore “Come out from among them and be separate”, says the Lord

- This is the part the Christian does for the rest of their lives

- ***LOOKING TO JESUS***

- In pursuit of holiness, it’s quite easy to become focused on sin, as opposed to being focused on God’s love for us, demonstrated by what Jesus Christ has done:

**ROMANS 2:4(NKJV)** Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the ***goodness of God leads you to repentance?***

**(NLTSE)** Don’t you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can’t you see that His kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?

- Let’s look at Jesus in our pursuit of holiness, not at the sin we want to overcome
- Rather say “I’m a saint who sometimes sins”, as opposed to “I’m a sinner, saved by grace”

**HEBREWS 12:1-4** “*Therefore* we also, since we are surrounded by so *great a cloud of witnesses*, let us lay aside every weight, and the *sin which so easily ensnares us*, and let us *run with endurance* the race that is set before us, *looking unto Jesus*, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

For *consider Him* who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.”

(NLTSE) “*Therefore*, since we are surrounded by such a *huge crowd of witnesses* to the life of faith, 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. We do this by *keeping our eyes on Jesus*, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne. Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won’t become weary and give up. After all, you have not yet given your lives in your struggle against sin”

### **CARE GROUP DISCUSSION**

1. Seeing as the word holiness also means separate, how Christians live separate from the world, while still being in the world? What practical implications, can living like this have for a believer?
2. Discuss the consequences it would have, if we applied these two verses literally and lived like this:

**JOHN 15:19** If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

**2 CORINTHIANS 6:17** Therefore “Come out from among them and be separate”, says the Lord

3. What areas in your life can you identify, that you would want to be made holy?