



VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Weekly Bible Study - 03:06:2009

Website: www.victoriouschristianministry.org

STUDY 19: CHARACTERISTICS OF A HOLY LIFE

James 1:27

Our last study concentrated on "Pure and undefiled religion" which can only be achieved when believers live holy lives. Other words such as purity, sanctification, godliness, etc are sometimes used to describe holiness. Bible teachings on the subject of holiness are not bundles of theories that appeal to intellectual curiosity, neither are they 'blue-sky' concepts and ideas that are unattainable but they are practical and achievable conduct demanded by God from all Christians. Therefore a holy Christian should know by experience when s/he is holy just as a sinner when s/he is saved. This study examines the practical manifestations of a holy life, and therefore serves as a mirror for every believer to examine his / her claims to holiness.

PERFECT AND SACRIFICIAL LOVE

I Corinthians 13:4-13; Deuteronomy 30:6; Matthew 22:37; John 15:12,13; 13:34,35; I John 3:16; 4:17-21; Genesis 13:8-12; II Corinthians 6:6; I Peter 1:22;; I Thessalonians 4:9-10; 3:12,13; Philippians 1:9.

A holy heart is "**rooted and grounded in love**" and "**knit together in love**" with other believers. He is "**made perfect in love**", puts on "**the breastplate of love**" and consistently "**walks in love**". His love is shown in an actively growing disposition towards kindness, care, concern and generosity. He is sympathetic, tender-hearted, meek and patient towards all. He bears and forbears rather than quarrel or fight. He endures long and is able to lay down his life, resources and all that he has for the care of the brethren. It is impossible for a person that is not holy to truly love the neighbour, brethren and members of the church to the point of laying down his life for them. Taking offence when not given adequate recognition, praise or appreciation are marks of an unholy life.

UNITY AND ONENESS WITH BELIEVERS

John 17:20-23; Philippians 1:27; 3:16; Psalms 133:1-3; Acts 2:1,44; I Corinthians 1:10; Hebrews 2:11; Ephesians 4:3.

Unity or inward union with the body of believers based on scriptures enables one to get on well with others as well as live amicably with them. An unholy person finds it difficult to achieve this with people he is closely related. He feels he is the best person among the believers and cannot be united with them except his views are accepted. He is often involved in discord, arguments, strives, murmuring and complaining in the church. When sanctified he finds it easy to submit himself to leadership, be easily controlled and directed in line with Biblical principles. He speaks the same thing (according to the scriptures) with other believers and relations. He goes the same way and judge things in the same way (I Corinthians 1:10). It is important to note that unity is not blind to the truths of the Bible. Attempting to go along with others at the expense of scriptural truths is evidence of compromise rather than of Biblical unity.

Your Spiritual Welfare Is Our Concern

RIGHT MOTIVES, DISPOSITION AND LANGUAGE

I Peter 3:16; Philippians 2:5; 1:21; Galatians 1:10; John 5:41.

A holy Christian does not flare up because others do not see eye to eye with him. He is gentle everywhere and every time. He does not lose his calmness because things go wrong. He defends what is right although it may not necessarily be his right. His defense is made with dignity "that they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ". His motives are pure. He has a "single eye" to please God in all things, wherever he is - private or public. His actions are guided by the love principle - "**Love worketh no ill to his neighbour**", "**seeketh not her own**", "**thinketh no evil**" and "**rejoiceth not in iniquity**" (Romans 13:10; 1 Corinthians 13:5,6).

INNER VICTORY AND FREEDOM

Hebrews 4:9; Ephesians 5:26,27; Philippians 1:9-11; 3:8; John 8:36; 10:10; I Timothy 6:6; Matthew 6:19,20.

A sanctified believer has won victory over satan, sin and self. He is no longer struggling to live right because the abundant life of God is freely flowing through him. Being death to self, he has gained freedom from the consciousness of the expectations of the society in life-style and appearance. He is not preoccupied in the rat race for material acquisition. He does not lay his treasures here on earth since his mansion is already in heaven.

ABSENCE OF SPOT, WRINKLE OR BLEMISH

Ephesians 5:25-27; I Thessalonians 4:7; I Peter 1:14-16; Matthew 5:6,8,48; Psalms 15:1-5; 24:3,4; Luke 1:74,75; Titus 2:14; Hebrews 12:14; Revelation 19:5-9.

A holy life is characterised by inner and outward purity. God sees when self is substituted for spirit, action for unction, lust for love, fear for faith. Pride, jealousy, evil thoughts, animosity and striving with the spirit are all internal evidences of spots and blemishes. Practical holiness is freedom from all filthiness of the spirit and of the flesh (II Corinthians 7:1). It is that beauty of transparency before God and man - that brokenness of will, that freshness of God's Spirit in one's heart, the love that bridges age, sex, colour and class. Practical holiness praises God for all things and wishes the best for self and others.

SPIRITUAL MINDEDNESS AND GREATER INTEREST IN FRUITFULNESS

Romans 8:5-6; Galatians 5:16,17,24,25; I John 2:15-17; Colossians 3:1; Philippians 1:21; I Corinthians 9:16; II Timothy 4:2; John 15:1-5.

Holiness gives rise to a growing interest in spiritual things. The ways, fashions, amusements, friends, recreations and material acquisitions of the world have a continually decreasing place in his heart. They constantly have a diminishing hold on his affections and gradually seem smaller and more trifling in his eyes. On the other hand spiritual companions, spiritual occupations, spiritual conversations have an ever increasing value to him. He seeks those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Holiness leads to increased efforts of every kind to spread the gospel - giving oneself to praying, preaching, speaking, visiting and giving, remembering that "**every branch in me that beareth not fruit He taketh away**".

**IF YOUR LIFE WERE THE ONLY BIBLE SINNERS EVER READ,
HOW MUCH HOLINESS WOULD THEY SEE?**

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