

THE PURSUIT OF HOLINESS

Message 4: THE ROOT OF THE RIGHTEOUS

Proverbs 12:3 (ESV)

No one is established by wickedness, but **the root of the righteous** will never be moved.

“The bough that breaks off from the tree in a storm may bloom briefly and give to the unthinking passer-by the impression that it is a healthy and fruitful branch, but its tender blossoms will soon perish and the bough itself wither and die. There is no lasting life apart from the root. Much that passes for Christianity today is the brief bright effort of the severed branch to bring forth its fruit in its season. But the deep laws of life are against it. Preoccupation with appearances and a corresponding neglect of the out-of-sight root of the true spiritual life are prophetic signs which go unheeded.”

- A.W. Tozer, *The Root of the Righteous*, pp. 118-119

The Holiness of Christ

1-4 adapted from *The Pursuit of Holiness*, chapter 4

1) The holiness of Christ magnifies our _____.

1 Timothy 1:15 (ESV)

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

Luke 5:8 (ESV)

But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord."

2) Our _____ is in Christ's _____.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Hebrews 12:5

1 Peter 2:22

1 John 3:5

John 8:46

3) Jesus' holiness is our _____ to follow.

1 Peter 2:21 (ESV)

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

1 John 2:6 (ESV)

whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

Ephesians 5:1 (ESV)

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.

4) Jesus expands our understanding of holiness to include both the _____
_____ and perfect conformity to _____.

John 6:38 (ESV)

For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.

John 4:34 (ESV)

Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work".

John 8:29b (ESV)

"... I always do the things that are pleasing to him."

If holiness is your goal, don't ask: "What's wrong with it?"

Instead, ask: "_____?"

Romans 12:2 (ESV)

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

5) It is our _____ with Jesus Christ that makes holiness _____.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV)

We all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

2 Peter 1:4 (ESV)

... he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

"We aren't interested in being virtuous just to be good people. Our first love is Jesus. Holiness is not ultimately about living up to a moral standard. It's about living in Christ and living out of our real, vital union with him."

- Kevin DeYoung, *The Hole in our Holiness*, pp. 98

Holiness is not just *abandoning* our sins, but wholeheartedly *pursuing* Christ!

Spirit of the Living God, be the Gardener of my soul.

For so long I have been waiting, silent and still -
experiencing a winter of the soul.

But now, in the strong name of Jesus Christ, I dare to ask:

Clear away the dead growth of the past,
Break up the hard clods of custom and routine,
Stir in the rich compost of vision and challenge,
Bury deep in my soul the implanted Word,
Cultivate and water and tend my heart,
Until new life buds and opens and flowers.

Amen.

- Richard Foster, *Prayers from the Heart*