

# THE PURSUIT OF HOLINESS

## Message 11: DO I REALLY WANT TO BE HOLY?

### BIG idea:

To **attain** and **sustain** godliness, I must \_\_\_\_\_ spiritually and \_\_\_\_\_ consistently.

*Personal holiness is more than setting aside casual sins we drifted into. It is more than even conquering 'besetting' sins that have become addictive and defiant. It is daily growing in grace towards godliness. It is about getting spiritually healthy and staying healthy.*

### Titus 2:11-14 (ESV)

<sup>11</sup> For **the grace of God has appeared**, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup> **training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions**, and **to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives** in the present age, <sup>13</sup> waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

### Ephesians 4:14-15 (ESV)

<sup>14</sup> ... so that **we may no longer be children**, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. <sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, **we are to grow up** in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,

### 2 Peter 3:18a (ESV)

<sup>18</sup> ... **grow in** the **grace** and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

### “GROWING IN GRACE” ... 3 Areas

1. \_\_\_\_\_ - the intake of truth to mind/heart to guide all of life

#### Colossians 3:9-10 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup> Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ - the conscientious pursuit and conscious enjoyment of fellowship with God

### Psalm 63:1-2 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. <sup>2</sup>So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ - the consistent (even habitual) response of obedience to the truths I have learned and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

### Romans 8:12-15 (ESV)

<sup>12</sup>So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. <sup>13</sup>For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

*Healthy spiritual growth, therefore, is always about \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ (in balance).*

## Holiness and the **Grace** of God

Adapted from J.I. Packer's "Growing into Christlikeness", *Rediscovering Holiness*, chapter 6:

The *nature* of holiness is \_\_\_\_\_ through consecration.

Repentance = turning away from what is wrong (and toward God)

Consecration = giving myself to God (for what is right)

### 2 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV)

<sup>18</sup>And 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.

### Romans 12:1-2 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>I appeal to you therefore\*, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>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.

The *context* of holiness is \_\_\_\_\_ through faith in Christ.

### Romans 6:12-14 (ESV)

<sup>12</sup>Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. <sup>13</sup>Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. <sup>14</sup>For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

The *root* of holiness is being \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ w/Christ.

**Romans 8:7-8 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. <sup>8</sup> Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

**Philippians 2:13 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> ... it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The *agent* of holiness is the \_\_\_\_\_ in us.

**Romans 8:13 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

The *experience* of holiness requires \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

**Matthew 5:29-30 (ESV)**

<sup>29</sup> If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. <sup>30</sup> And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

The *rule* of holiness is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

**James 2:8 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.

The *heart* of holiness is \_\_\_\_\_.

**1 John 3:11, 14-24 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

<sup>14</sup> We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. <sup>15</sup> Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. <sup>16</sup> By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. <sup>17</sup> But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? <sup>18</sup> Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. <sup>19</sup> By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; <sup>20</sup> for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup> Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; <sup>22</sup> and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup> And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and

love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup> Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

**Next week:**

G-rated living in an X-rated world