

True Holiness
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Scriptures:

- Romans 12:1, 2
- Romans 8:32
- 1 Corinthians 1:30
- Romans 7:18, 24

Summary:

Under the covenant of grace, God asks us to be holy, but not the way religion tells us. Unlike the law, which demanded perfect and spotless sacrifices, God asks us to willingly sacrifice ourselves to Him, flaws and all. This is so that He can express His love through us. The practical holiness God wants to see in us is only possible if we as born-again believers understand that we're righteous only in Christ. We're not perfect in and of ourselves, yet God in us is continually working to mature us and make us just like Jesus. Being holy isn't living a sinless life but standing separate and apart from the common world. Genuine holiness comes when we accept and understand that because of our faith in Jesus, we're different and don't blend in with the crowd.

Notes:

1. God asks us to let Him express Himself through us. He makes us wise, righteous, and holy.
2. What God asks of us is by His mercy, not by our works; living the way He asks us to is impossible through self-effort. We're to present what we know is blemished as holy. This is the opposite of the Old-Testament sacrifices which had to be perfect and unblemished.
3. Sanctification and holiness aren't based on our conduct, even though religion has taught us that it is. The truth is that sanctification, holiness, righteousness, and wisdom is a person; His name is Jesus Christ. Our behavior doesn't determine our holiness; our Savior does.
4. We're righteous because of *Jesus'* behavior, not ours. Despite our flaws, He accepts us.
5. Religion fills us with condemnation when our behavior isn't holy. We can't change our conduct; only Jesus can do that. To be delivered we must look at Him, not at ourselves.

Category: grace

Keywords: holiness, holy, perfect, spotless, sacrifices, flaws, sacrifice, righteous