

Holiness

We want to be in God's will, to do God's will, but how do we really know what God's will for us is? Let's sort out biblical truth from worldly assumptions. Believe it or not, the answer isn't as mysterious as you may think.



INTRODUCTION

God's will for us is to be holy – like Him. Trying to attain this level of perfection is daunting and seems impossible; yet, we can rejoice that Jesus has come to be our holiness and our perfection.

STARTER QUESTION

The first and last songs recorded in scripture highlight God's holiness. What is your favorite song highlighting God's holiness and why?

INTO THE WORD

Review 1 Peter 1:13-25. In the period looking forward to Jesus' coming, holiness meant a separate land, diet, and way of worship. Since Jesus has come, what is holiness marked by? How can we recognize it?

Read the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6: 9-13. Jesus indicates the need for the Lord's name to be viewed as holy. Do Christians today treat God's name with holiness or with flippancy? How so?

Read Romans 7:21-25. How do we reconcile Paul's struggle with the flesh with God's call for us to be holy? If Christ has given us triumph over sin, why might Christians still struggle with it?

APPLICATION

What are some attributes/identifiers of people who think about themselves? Who think about God? Who think like God? How can we move from thinking about God to thinking like God?

What do you think it takes to be in the world but not of it? What boundaries or guidelines do we need to set to ensure that we live this way?

What might it look like to "aggressively love" a difficult, co-worker, friend, or family member instead of winning an argument or maintaining our "rights" in the relationship?

PRAYER

Pray this week that we would not conform to the ways of this world, but that we would begin thinking like God and knowing what is good and pleasing to Him (Romans 12:2).