

Holiness of God & Christ, and holiness is for you

"To say that the attribute of holiness is important is not to say that we understand it. Of all the attributes of God, in fact, this one is most misconstrued." Boice, p125-6

"The point is that the experience of confronting the Holy is supremely threatening. The worshiper is drawn to the Holy, but at the same time he is terrified by it. The awe-inspiring, overpowering energy of the Holy threatens to destroy him." Boice, p130
c.f. Isaiah 6:5

Holiness of God

Ex 15:11

"Who among the gods is like you, O Lord? Who is like you — majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?"

Psalms 89:18

"Indeed, our shield belongs to the Lord, our king to the Holy One of Israel."

Is 40:25

"To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One."

Is 43:14

"This is what the Lord says — your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel:..."

Is 57:15

"For this is what the high and lofty One says — he who lives forever, whose name is holy:..."

Hosea 11:9

"...I will not carry out my fierce anger, nor will I turn and devastate Ephraim. For I am God, and not man — the Holy One among you...." "

God is consistently described as holy.

Hab 1:12-13

"O Lord, are you not from everlasting? My God, my Holy One, we will not die. O Lord, you have appointed them to execute judgment; O Rock, you have ordained them to punish. Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong. ..." "

God is holy

Cannot approve evil

Cannot look on wickedness with favor

Holiness is the moral perfection (or excellence) of God's traits. It is His purity.

Four elements to Holiness (drawn from Boice)

Majesty

Ex 15:11 *splendor, grandeur, sovereignty*

"Who among the gods is like you, O Lord? Who is like you — majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?"

The element of majesty links God's holiness to sovereignty.

Will

Ez 36:22-23 *active self-differentiation*

"Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone. I will show the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have profaned among them. Then the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Sovereign Lord, when I show myself holy through you before their eyes.' "

Ex 20:4-5 *God rejects every attack on His sole rights as Lord of His creation*

"You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me..."

God is not indifferent to how Man regards Him. Rather, He acts and wills to see that His glory is recognized.

Wrath

Ez 36:22-23 *Wrath to vindicate (clear, as from an accusation; justify) His name*

Rom 2:18-19 *Wrath against wickedness*

"The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them."

*Wrath is the necessary & proper stance of Holy God to all who oppose Him
He will not allow any person/thing to aspire to His place.*

Righteousness

Rev 15:3-4 *What God wills is righteousness, or holiness, in its ethical sense*

"...Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages. Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."

We answer "What is right?" by appealing to the will of God.

Holiness of Christ

John 8:29 *Jesus did what was pleasing to God*

" 'The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.' "

John 6:38 *Jesus did the will of God*

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

Heb 4:14 *Jesus was without sin*

"Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet without sin."

Christ's holiness was His conformity to the will of God — He always did what was pleasing to God.

Holiness is for you

Matt 5:48

" 'Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.' "

1 Peter 1:14-16

"As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy.' "

Eph 5:1-2

"Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

We are called to be holy in response to God's holiness and to Christ's holy sacrifice on our behalf.

How, then, are we to be holy?

Made Holy, yet being made holy

We are brought to God by Christ's death

Rom 5:19 *Christ's active obedience is his sinless life here on earth, which is credited to those who trust in Him for salvation.*

"For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous."

1 Peter 3:18 *Christ's passive obedience is His death on cross, which fully paid the penalty for our sins.*

"For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit,..."

We are made Holy

Heb 10:5-10 *By God's will we have been made holy once for all. This holiness depends entirely on Christ's work, by God's will.*

"Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: 'Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. Then I said, "Here I am — it is written about me in the scroll — I have come to do your will, O God." ' First he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them' (although the law required them to be made). Then he said, 'Here I am, I have come to do your will.' He sets aside the first to establish the second. And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

1 Cor 6:9-11 *believers have been washed, justified, sanctified.*

"Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."

We were removed from the kingdom of sin, and placed in the kingdom of God

Eph 2:1-3 *We were dead in our sins, walking according to the ways of the world.*

"As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sin, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath."

Rom 6:1-4 *Through our union with Christ, we died to sin. This is fact, whether or not we experience it.*

"What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we then live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with

him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

Rom 6:5-11 *We are freed from sin.*

"If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin — because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus."

Col 1:13

"For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves..."

Rom 6:12

"Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires."

We are called *to be* Holy

"Sanctification is an ongoing transformation within a maintained consecration, and it engenders real righteousness within the frame of relational holiness." J. I. Packer, Concise Theology, p169

Relational holiness flows from the cross

1 Thess 4:7

"For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life."

Personal holiness (or, moral renovation) flows from the Holy Spirit

Rom 8:12-14

"Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation — but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God."

2 Cor 3:17-18

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

Becoming Holy

2 Cor 7:1

"Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God."

Phil 2:12-13

"Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed — not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence — continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose."

Phil 1:6

"...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

1 Thess 4:7

"For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life."

Rom 12:1-2

"Therefore, I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God —this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will."

Being/becoming holy is accomplished both of our efforts and by God's

Side notes:

What is the role of the Holy Spirit in holiness?

Moral renovation flows from the Holy Spirit (see above)

Gal 5:16 not carry out desire of flesh by Spirit (body)

Gal 5:22-23 fruit of Spirit (mind)

1 Cor 12 gifts of the Spirit with which to serve the church

John 15:26-16:15 promise of Spirit as Helper, bringer of truth, convictor, glorifier

Given those things, let me suggest that all aspects of our growth in holiness comes by the internal prompting, filling, strengthening of the Holy Spirit, and through the external discipline of God.

This seems reasonable

Unused stuff

Holiness is necessary for life

Holiness is required for fellowship with God

1 John 1:3-6 *compromise in holiness compromises our fellowship with God*

"We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete. This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth."

Psalm 15:1-5 *the righteous may fellowship with God*

"Lord, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill? He whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous, and who speaks the truth from his heart and has no slander on his tongue, who does his neighbor no wrong and casts no slur on his fellowman, who despises a vile man but honors those who fear the Lord, who keeps his oath even when it hurts, who lends his money without usury and does not accept a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things will never be shaken."

Holiness is required for our well-being

Prov 3:11-12

"My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline and do not resent his rebuke, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in."

Holiness is necessary for effective service

2 Tim 2:21

"In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work."

Holiness is necessary for assurance of salvation

2 Cor 5:17

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

Rom 8:14

"...because those who are led by the spirit of God are sons of God."

1 John 3:1-3

"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure."

Battle for Holiness

Though we are delivered from the kingdom of sin and its rule, we have not been delivered from its attacks.

Rom 7:21

"So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law..."

Gal 5:17

"For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want."

Seat of indwelling sin is the heart

Mark 7:21-23

"For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly."

Luke 6:45

"The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks."

Sin works through our desires and misleads us

James 1:14-15

"...but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death."

Eph 4:14, 22 *Sin tends to deceive our understanding or reasoning*

"Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. ... You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires..."

Gal 6:1 *We can be tempted even when helping someone else escape sin*

"Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted."

We escape sin by guarding the heart

Ps 139:23-24

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Prov 4:23

"Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life."

Heb 4:12 *This is primarily done through Scripture*

"For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

Towards Personal Holiness

"Holiness is not a series of do's and don'ts, but conformity to the character of God and obedience to the will of God." - The Pursuit of Holiness, Bridges, p.69

"Our first problem is that our attitude toward sin is more self-centered than God-centered."

"Our second problem is that we have misunderstood 'living by faith' (Galatians 2:20) to mean that no effort at holiness is required on our part."

"Our third problem is that we do not take some sin seriously."

p16-18

"We need to be gripped by the fact that God hates all these things." p28

Recognize your freedom from the reign of sin

Form the habit of continually realizing you are dead to sin

Rom 6:5-11 *We are freed from sin.*

"If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin — because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus."

Count on God to enable you to realize our death-to-sin & life-in-Christ

Phil 2:12-13 *God (via Spirit) works in us that we may act in accordance with His will*

"Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed — not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence — continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose."

God works through Holy Spirit to make you Holy

1 Thess 4:7-8 *Paul connects giving of H.S. with living a holy life*

1 Cor 6:18-19 *flee sexual immorality because our bodies are temples of H.S.*

Rom 8:9 *controlled by Spirit, not sin, if Spirit of God lives in us*

Gal 5:16 *not carry out desire of flesh by Spirit*

Gal 5:22-23 *fruit of Spirit*

1 Cor 12 *gifts of the Spirit with which to serve the church*

John 15:26-16:15 *promise of Spirit as Helper, bringer of truth, convictor, glorifier*

Obedience: put aside sin

Heb 12:1 *throw off everything that hinders and the sin that entangles*

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

2 Peter 3:14 *make every effort to be faultless*

"So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this [heaven], make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him."

It is time for us Christians to face up to our responsibility for holiness. Too often we say that we are "defeated" by this or that sin. No, we are not defeated; we are simply disobedient! It might be well if we stopped using the terms "victory" and "defeat" to describe our progress in holiness. Rather we should use the terms "obedience" and "disobedience." When I say I am defeated by some sin, I am unconsciously slipping out from under my responsibility. I am saying that something outside of me has defeated me. But when I say I am disobedient, that places the responsibility for my sin squarely on me. We may, in fact, be defeated, but the reason we are defeated is because we have chosen to disobey. We have chosen to entertain lustful thoughts, or to harbor resentment, or to shade the truth a little.

We need to brace ourselves up. and to realize that we are responsible for our thoughts, attitudes, and actions. We need to reckon on the fact that we died to sin's reign, that it no longer has any dominion over us, that God has united us with the risen Christ in all His power, and has given us the Holy Spirit to work in us. Only as we accept our responsibility and appropriate God's provisions will we make any progress in our pursuit of holiness.

p. 81

This is accomplished through these general actions:

Conviction

Conviction on specific issues addressed within Scripture

Heb 4:12 *This is primarily done through Scripture*

"For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

Psalm 119:11 *Memorization*

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."

Conviction on issues not specifically addressed within in Scripture

➤ " 'Everything is permissible for me' — but not everything is beneficial" (1 Cor 6:12).

Question 1: Is it helpful — physically, spiritually, and mentally?

➤ " 'Everything is permissible for me' — but I will not be mastered by anything" (1 Cor 6:12). *Question 2:* Does it bring me under its power?

➤ " Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall" (1 Cor 8:13). *Questions 3:* Does it hurt others?

➤ " So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (1 Cor 10:31). *Question 4:* Does it glorify God?

Commitment

Matt 16:24 *Commit to denial of self*

"Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.' "

Discipline

1 Cor 9:24-27

"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the game goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize."

Perseverance

Prov 24:16

"...for though a righteous man falls seven times, he rises again, but the wicked are brought down by calamity."

Questions from the Peanut Gallery

How do we "get" holiness?

How is holiness granted? (through grace, our righteousness, ...)

How do we best help God help us to be holy?

Does holiness come from and through the H.S. or is it something that any person can have or be?

Are there degrees of holiness? Can someone be more holy than someone else?

What is the spirit of holiness? (is it the same as the H.S.)

How do you know if you are holy?

How isolated from things of the world should a Christian be in their attempts at holiness?

How would you "exhibit" holiness to a homeless person? What does it mean to them? What relevance does it have in terms of how it would be a testimony to them?

How do we speak to one another about our faith? Both to believers and non-believers?

How should evangelicals speak about Catholics? to Catholics?

Practical Holiness : Speech

Introduction

How can you be holy with your speech?

General Principle: *Christ's holiness was His conformity to the will of God — He always did what was pleasing to God. How then can we do the same with our speech?*

Have you thought, after a conversation, that you shouldn't have said certain things?

Have you ever realized after the fact that your comments hurt the person you were speaking with?

Have you ever been in a conversation with several people and wondered if (and how) you should contribute something positive? Or whether you should leave?

Consider these situations:

Telling jokes.

Talking with friends:

 About each other.

 About other people who aren't present.

Variety of Verses

Prov 15:1-2

"A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouth of the fool gushes folly."

Prov 21:23

"He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from calamity."

Prov 29:20

"Do you see a man who speaks in haste? There is more hope for a fool than for him."

Matt 15:11

"Jesus called the crowd to him and said, 'Listen and understand. What goes into a man's mouth does not make him 'unclean,' but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him 'unclean.'"

2 Tim 2:16-17

"Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. Their teaching will spread like gangrene..."

Eph 4:29-32

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

Eph 5:3-5

"But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving."

Col 3:8-10

"But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator."

Col 4:6

"Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone."

James 3:4-6, 9-12

"Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. ... With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water."

Thoughts on evaluating your speech

Speaking to others:

Is your speech gentle or harsh?

Is it unwholesome or contrary to what you know about God?

Criticism:

Are you being encouraging or discouraging?

Are you building someone up or tearing them down?

Do you have a sufficient relationship that they would accept your critique?

Speaking of others:

Is it rumor or have you confirmed it with the person in question?

Would you want someone to say the same types of things about you if you weren't there?

What is your motivation? Will the discussion benefit the person being spoken of?

Would it cause the person to whom you're speaking to lose esteem for the person in question?

Speaking with others:

Can you add something positive if they are tearing others down?

Should you leave the conversation?

Practical Holiness : Thought Life

Introduction

How can you be holy in your innermost thoughts? How does what you "consume" impact your spiritual life?

General Principle: *"...be transformed by the renewing of your mind."*

Have you ever watched a movie, listened to a song, or read a book and found yourself dwelling on it later?

Have you ever found a movie (etc.) to have been a positive influence on your life?

Consider these situations:

Watching the new "Arnie" movie.

Watching the new romantic-comedy flick.

Reading the latest pop-fiction novel on the bestseller list

Endless hours of your favorite music playing in the background.

Verses

Matt 5:21-22, 27-28, 43-45

"You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. ... You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that everyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ... You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven."

Rom 12:2

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will."

Phil 4:4-9

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me — put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."

Col 3:15-17

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one

another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

1 Thess 5:19-22

"Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil."

James 1:13-15

"When tempted, no should say, 'God is tempting me.' For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, but his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death."

1 Peter 2:1-3

"Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good."

Thoughts on evaluating your "mental consumption"

Is this a good use of my time?

Would I be hesitant or ashamed to tell a close friend that I watched/read/listened to this?

Will this help strengthen my friendships? Can it help my witness?

Does this help my growth in Christ?

Does this help me to "think the thoughts of God"?

If I act on the thoughts caused by this, will my actions be pleasing to God?

Practical Holiness : Friendships

Introduction

How can you be holy in your innermost thoughts? How does what you "consume" impact your spiritual life?

General Principle: *"...be transformed by the renewing of your mind."*

Have you ever done something with a friend you later regretted?

Have you chose not to do something with friends that you later wished you had done?

How have you been strengthened in you walk with Christ by your friendships?

How have friendships hindered your relationship with God?

Consider these situations:

Going out to bars, dance clubs, etc.

Going somewhere with friends instead of church.

Spending time in prayer with a friend.

Having your bible study time interrupted by a friend.

Verses

Matt 16:24

"Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.' "

Rom 6:12-13

"Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness."

1 Cor 5:11

"But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat."

2 Cor 6:14

"Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?"

1 Thess 5:19-22

"Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil."

1 Tim 6:8-10

"But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and

destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."

James 4:11-12

"Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you — who are you to judge your neighbor?"

Thoughts on evaluating your friendships

Do I consistently sin against God when I spend time with a certain friend?

Does this friend encourage to act in conformity to God's will?

Does this person claim to be a Christian, and yet consistently act against God's will?

Practical Holiness : Work

Col 3:23-24

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

Practical Holiness : Judgment

Problem

Matthew 7:1-5

"Do not judge lest you be judged. For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. And why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye."

What does Jesus seem to be teaching here?

Further insight

Matthew 18:15-17

"And if your brother sins, go and reprove him in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed. And if he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax-gatherer."

Galatians 6:1-5

"Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another. For each one shall bear his own load. "

We are told to help those in sin in a certain manner. How do you first determine that someone is sinning?

How are we to restore this person to righteousness? What sort of actions should we take? What sort of attitude should we take? How does this affect our being judgmental?

Note, that in Galatians we are told to restore this person, "each one looking to yourself." Compare this to Jesus' exhortation to first remove the log from your own eye. What do these say about how we approach someone else's sin.