

HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD

(Moerewa C F - 22/2/87 - EKB)

1. The words,; holy, holiness, sanctified, sanctification, sanctify, saint, in the Bible all have the following dual meaning
 - a. to be set apart and separated from sin, evil, uncleanness.
 - b. to be filled with Jesus' life, light, Spirit, Word, love, goodness, righteousness, peace joy, purity.
2. **God is holy.**
"You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy." *Lev. 19:2; 20:7; 11:44, 45.*

This is repeated in the New Testament, *1 Pet 1: 15,16.*
See Ps 99:3, 5, 9. "The Lord our God is holy."
3. **We can only have fellowship and Communion with God** when we are holy, pure, set apart.
Ex 25: 8. God said to the people of Israel in the wilderness, "build Me a sanctuary - a holy place that I may dwell among them."
Ex 28:36. The High Priest, Aaron, who had the responsibility of approaching God in the Holy of Holies, had a plate of gold on his mitre, with the words, "Holiness to the Lord" on it.
Heb 12:14. "Without holiness no one shall see the Lord."
1 Pet 2:5,9. We are a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices to God.
Also see: *Eph 1:4, 1Cor 3:17, Eph 2:21, Ps 24:3.*
4. God requires of us holiness, so that we will be **clean vessels in His service.**
2 Tim 2:19 -21, Is 52:11.
5. **Holiness is Pleasing to God**, and it is walking in His will.
1 Thes 4:1-8. It is walking a life that is separated from uncleanness, lust and immorality.
6. **Read Hag 2:11-13.**
Holiness is not transferable. If a holy object touches something that is not holy, it is not made holy. (If we are living a holy life and walk into a place of sin, we do not make it holy. It is still a house of sin.)
Unholiness is transferable. If an unholy, unclean thing touches an object, it becomes unholy.
This principle is applied in the New Testament in a number of passages, e g, *1 Cor 5: 1-13.* The Church is the holy temple of God's dwelling as it says in *1Cor 3:17, 1Pet 2:5,9, 1Thes 4:7, Eph 1:4.* Therefore we must be careful not to welcome into the church the sexually immoral, the covetous, the idolater, the reviler, the drunkard, or the extortioner.
1Cor 5:1,2,6,7,9,11-13. We are not to keep company or eat with such a person.
2Cor 6:14-18, 1Cor 6:9,10, Eph 5:1-7, Is 52:11. "A little leaven leavens all."
7. If we welcome into our midst the immoral person, we are condoning their action, and are a partaker of their sins. *1 Cor 5:7.*
8. **There are two sides to holiness.**

- a. **Separation FROM sin, evil, uncleanness.** This involves repentance, confession, cleansing. *1 Jn 1:9, Prov 28:13, Ac 17:30, Ps 66:18, Lk 13:3, Mat 9:13.*
In *1 Cor 10:1-11*, there are five sins mentioned that kept Israel, God's people, from obtaining their inheritance. These were lust, idolatry, fornication, tempting Christ, and murmuring.

Lust is pleasing self at the expense of others, loving pleasure more than God.

Idolatry is having possessions, money, goals and ambitions before God.

Fornication is misuse of God's gift of sex. It is God's will for sex to be kept within marriage.

Tempting Christ is demanding God to do something against His will. It is putting God to the test.

Murmuring is complaining, criticising, fault-finding, against God and those serving His will. *Ex 16:2,7.*

- b. **Separation UNTO God:** His life, goodness, truth, light, purity, will, service. Put on Christ, *Gal 3:27, Rom 13:14*, and be filled with His Holy Spirit, and Word. *Eph 5:18,19, Col 3:16.*
Holiness is the result of a life of faith in the promises of God that Christ will live His life in us, in power, in fulness, in truth, in purity, in obedience, in goodness, and love. *1 Cor 1:30, Gal 2:20, 2 Cor 7:1, 1 Thes 3:13, 1 Thes 5:23,24, Heb 13:20,21, Ezk 36: 25-27, Phil 2:13, 2 Pet 1:3,4, Col 3:3.*

John Wesley's definition of "**holiness**" is "the life of Christ in the soul".