

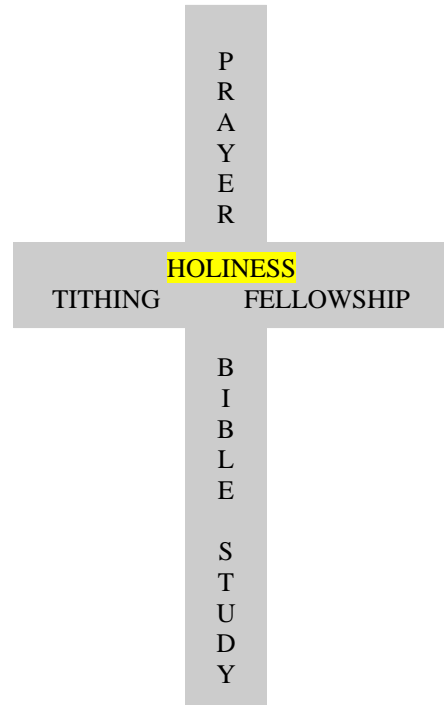
Discovering The Practice of Holiness

Level 6 Lesson 2

The Practice of Holiness: Modeling Jesus

Real Christianity is about **LIFE CHANGE**, not just about **RELIGION**. The central part of the Disciple's Cross is the practice of **HOLINESS** which, when present in the believer's life, indicates that a real change has indeed taken place. In addition to **glorifying God**, holiness has the effect of **testifying to others** around us.

It is possible to keep the "rules" on the habits and practices of Bible study, prayer, tithing and fellowship through sheer human effort. However, **the habit of holiness** (especially its inner aspects) **can only be manifested through the enabling of God's Spirit**.



PRINCIPLES OF BIBLICAL HOLINESS

1. The Bible teaches that holiness is one of the basic **CHARACTERISTICS** of God's nature.

God does not "have" holiness. He "is" holy.

"Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the Lord our God is holy." Psalm 99:9 (KJV)

2. Personal holiness is absolutely essential in maintaining our **SALVATION**.

"Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord." Hebrews 12:14 (NIV)

"But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God – who chose you to be his children – is holy. For he himself has said, 'You must be holy because I am holy.'" 1 Peter 1:15-16 (NLT)

3. Holiness involves both the negative concept of **SEPARATION** and the positive concept of **DEDICATION**.

Separation: "The Lord also says, 'Leave them and stay away! Don't touch anything that isn't clean. Then I will welcome you and be your Father. You will be my sons and my daughters, as surely as I am God, the All-Powerful.' My friends, God has made us these promises. So we should stay away from everything that keeps our bodies and spirits from being clean. We should honor God and try to be completely like him." 2 Corinthians 6:17 – 7:1

Dedication: "And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice – the kind he will accept. When you think of what he has done for you, is this too much to ask?" Romans 12:1(NLT)

4. The power to live holy lives does not come from our flesh, but from the HOLY SPIRIT .

"Hold on to the pattern of right teaching you learned from me. And remember to live in the faith and love that you have in Christ Jesus. With the help of the Holy Spirit who lives within us, carefully guard what has been entrusted to you."

2 Timothy 1:13-14 (NLT)

5. We are motivated to live holy lives not merely by enforced rules, but by our LOVE FOR GOD .
E.g. of a marriage relationship--they are "rules" to the relationship, but the foundation is love.

"This is love for God: to obey commands. And his commands are not burdensome." 1 John 5:3 (NIV)

"All the ways of the Lord are loving for those who keep the demands of the covenant." Psalm 25:10 (NIV)

"And how can we be sure that we belong to him? By obeying his commandments. If someone says, 'I belong to God,' but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and does not live in the truth. But those who obey God's word really do love him. That is the way to know whether or not we live in him." 1 John 2:3-5 (NIV)

6. God gives us three HOLINESS TEACHERS to show us how to live a life that pleases Him:

- The BIBLE

"...Christ loved the church and gave his life for it. He made the church holy by the power of his word...so that he would have a glorious and holy church, without faults or spots or wrinkles or any other flaws." Ephesians 5:25-27

- Spiritual LEADERSHIP

Someone read:

¹¹ And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ... Ephesians 4:11-15 (NKJV)

- The HOLY SPIRIT

"This is the new covenant I will make with my people on that day, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts so they will understand them, and I will write them on their minds so they will obey

them.” Hebrews 10:16 (NLT)

7. Our righteous works are not the MEANS of us receiving salvation, but they should be the RESULTS of us receiving it!

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:8-10 (KJV)

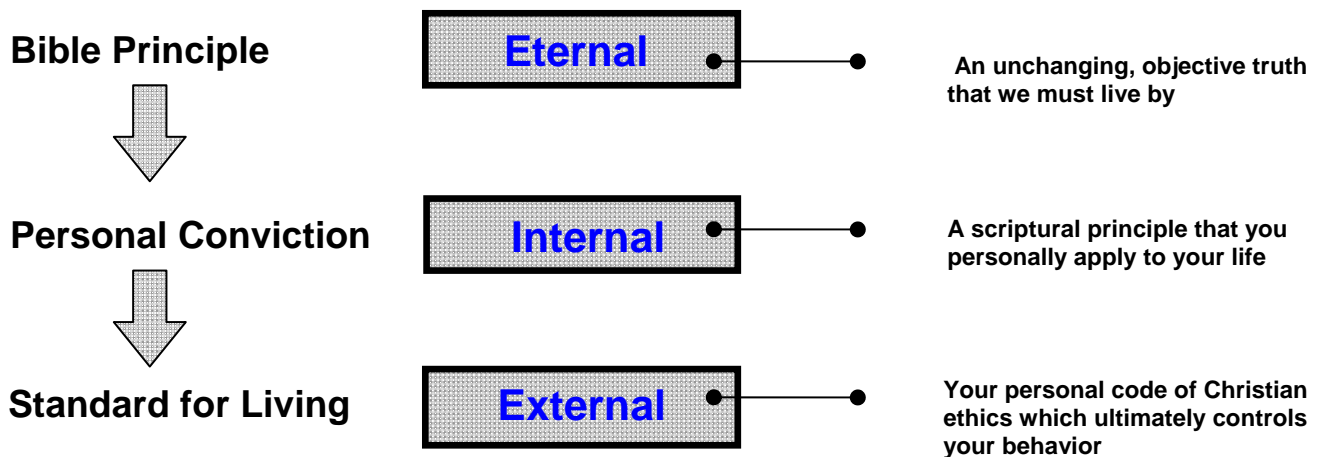
“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us...and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works” Titus 3:5-8 (KJV)

8. The Bible teaches that a genuine Christian will exhibit a noticeable witness when INTERNAL HOLINESS is present in the heart.

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 5:16 (KJV)

“Dear brothers and sisters, what’s the use of saying you have faith if you don’t prove it by your actions? That kind of faith can’t save anyone... it isn’t enough just to have faith. Faith that doesn’t show itself by good deeds is no faith at all – it is dead and useless... ‘I can’t see your faith if you don’t have good deeds but I will show you my faith through my good deeds’... So you see, we are made right with God by what we do, not by faith alone.” James 2:14-24 (NLT)

Three Components of Holiness



I. Three Elements/Components of Holiness

A. Bible Principle

1. Scriptural principles are the first level of consciousness that we need to understand. These come from the Bible.
2. There are definite and explicit statements found in the Word of God that gives us insight into holiness.
3. There are also implicit principles that we can apply to our modern situations of life.
4. **The principles are eternal, unchanging, objective truth that we must live by.**

B. Personal Conviction

1. Where do convictions come from?
 - a. Prayer? Our prayers can be subjective and we can have difficulty knowing the difference between our spirit and the Holy Spirit.
 - b. The Word of God! Its mandates and principles are the standard in which I live my life.
 - c. Often we may use the term, "I was convicted of that." The connotation was "a feeling" or "while in prayer."
 - d. Clarification: God definitely speaks to us and challenges us to grow and change into His holiness. But the point is that these inner promptings must be rooted in the Word! They will not contradict the Word of God.
 - Nature of holiness; internal promptings in time of need
 - It is the "Holy" Spirit within us!
 - e. We need to understand what a conviction is!
2. What is a conviction?
 - a. A basic command of scripture which I have purposed to follow in my life whatever the cost.
 - b. **A scriptural principle which I have applied to my life personally.**
 - c. This conviction becomes an internal persuasion and is also unchanging.
3. What are the qualifications of a conviction?
 - a. It must be seen in your life.
 - b. It must not change.
 - c. It must be consistent throughout one's lifestyle (It cannot be practiced or refrained from in one area while you violate the principle via another medium).
4. Anything that does not meet the above qualifications is **a preference, not a conviction.**

C. Standard for Living

1. What are standards?
 - a. The external things that govern our life.
 - The way we dress, the way we act, and the activities in which we are involved.
 - b. **Our personal code of Christian ethics which ultimately controls our behavior.**
 - c. Standards are where we live out the inner convictions we have developed from Bible principles.
2. Aspects of holiness standards (taught below in Principle 9 under Bible and Church Standards)

Note: Principle # 9 below is an expansion of this third component of Holiness, "Standard for Living."

The word 'standard' is defined as "**a simple test for determining the authenticity of something intangible.**" Holiness standards therefore are not the principal part of holiness, but they are an external sign that an authentic work of salvation has taken place!

E.g. Many years ago, there was a widespread fire in Baltimore. When fireman from New York came to help with their equipment, they were of little use. Their hose would not fit the hydrants in Baltimore. Thus, standardization of hydrant and hose size was implemented.

9. There are three kinds of Standards for Living (Holiness Standards) that God expects every MATURE Christian to adhere to:

• BIBLE standards

These are life principles that are explicitly commanded in the Word of God. They demand **immediate** obedience upon salvation. The principles are non-negotiable for all Christians!
Clear Teachings of Scripture

- These things are immediately apparent to all. In regard to these commands, there should be no difference of opinion.
- The new believer should begin to obey them immediately.
- Examples: fornication, lying, drunkenness

• CHURCH standards

These are life principles that are established by spiritual leadership to deal with the practical application of Scriptural principles in modern situations. They are usually understood and implemented **gradually** as a believer matures.
Practical Applications of Scriptural Principles

- These are applied to modern situations which are usually understood and implied gradually as the new believer grows in grace and knowledge.
- In regard to specific applications, there can come some legitimate differences of opinion among Christians.
- Examples: different aspects of adornment and godly dress

• PERSONAL standards

These are life principles that are prompted by the Holy Spirit in **individual** lives due to the unique background of each believer. These will never contradict those standards established by the **pastor** that God has given. Personal convictions are above and beyond what the church already teaches.

10. There are many levels of MATURITY in God's family, just like a natural family, and each member is valuable to God in their present STAGE.

"If our faith is strong, we should be patient with the Lord's followers whose faith is weak. We should try to please them instead of ourselves. We should think of their good and try to help them..."
Romans 15:1-2

"(Jesus said) It will be terrible for people who cause even one of my little followers to sin. Those people would be better off thrown into the deepest part of the ocean with a heavy stone tied around their necks!" Matthew 18:6

11. The more mature I become in my lifestyle of holiness, the more God can USE ME.

"But God's truth stands firm like a foundation stone with this inscription: 'The Lord knows those who are his,' and 'Those who claim they belong to the Lord must turn away from all wickedness' ...some utensils are made of gold and silver, and some are made of wood and clay. The expensive utensils are used for special occasions, and the cheap ones are for everyday use. If you keep yourself pure, you will be a utensil God can use for his purpose. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work." 2 Timothy 2:19-21 (NLT)

Joseph's motivation to not sin: 1) He said it was "against God."; 2) He had a dream to protect

12. SUBMISSION to spiritual guidance is an important part of my growth in holiness.

Warn that some matters are not a lack of revelation, but a lack of submission to God. You must intentionally and actively "educate your conscience."

Titus 1:15 (NKJV) To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled.

"Obey your spiritual leaders and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they know they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this joyfully and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit." **Hebrews 13:17**