

A Passion for God is a Maturing Holiness

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The Definition of Holiness-Heb 3:12-13; 4:12-13

The first stage of attaining holiness involves the exposure of our hearts to truth and the cleansing of hearts from lies. Sin wears a cloak of deception. The holiness process is governed by the Holy Spirit-the Holy Spirit sanctifies us through the truth.

We must discern the voice of sin and recognize the lie when it says, “your sin is not so bad”-Sin brings a sequence of rationalizations and compromises.

Rom. 2:1-16, 2 Sam 12:5-7

Sin will make you forget who you are-You are a child of God not of the Devil!

Sin engulfs the mind in a cloud of alibis and cover-ups. It twists and distorts the truth, without plans for repentance. Sin convinces us that: “God understands, He will never judge me.”

A. Its Greek Root: *Hagiasmos* = “to Make Holy” or “to Sanctify”

B. Its Twofold Translation: *Hagiasmos* is translated “holiness” and “sanctification.”

C. Its Twofold Connotation

1. Objectively, *hagiasmos* means to be set apart (also known as positional holiness).

a. In a negative sense it means to be set apart from sin.

b. In a positive sense it means to be set apart unto God.

2. Subjectively, *hagiasmos* means to be cleansed inwardly (also known as practical holiness).

a. In a negative sense it means to be purged *from* sin.

b. In a positive sense it means to be refined, regenerated, renewed in mind and soul.

ATTRACTIONS are allurements that are based on memories, past experiences or early associations.

Our inner needs drive our attractions and is the basis upon being with someone whom we think is attractive. This creates in us: a validation of our own self-worth.

Attractions are as a net to a fish. The more you struggle the more entangled you become. Don't wrestle with the thing or person, deliverance comes from within-victory comes from the battleground of the mind-its memories and needs.

Attractions are as a remote controlled car. There is a small apparatus inside the car that is manipulated by an external item. Remove the inner apparatus and the car will not work. Attractions evolve and manipulate us because of an inner apparatus that makes us vulnerable. If the wrong person, place or thing is controlling us we are in trouble.

2 Sam chapters 11 and 12.

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Should an embarrassing sin nearly be exposed through circumstances, etc., we thank God that our secret problem remained hidden- Likely not God that kept the sin hidden, it was the devil.

Prov. 28:13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy

2 Cor. 4:2

Luke 8:15-18 Honesty of heart-generates fruitfulness.

2 Thess 2:12 “took pleasure in wickedness”

In almost all sin there is enough pleasure to make that sin attractive! If sin was without pleasure only the mentally retarded would commit it, sin contains death. It is the pleasurable side of sin that deceives us.

Titus 2:11-14, 1Pet. 4:1-5,

Lust is the perversion of pleasure. For true salvation we must desire truth above pleasure. Truth is not the enemy of pleasure, but of perversion.

Rom 1:23-24

Every sin is the exchange of the truth of God for a lie.

Each time you repent of a sin a lie that once controlled your life is broken.

However if you take pleasure in wickedness, refusing God’s kindness that leads you to repentance, God will eventually give you over to the deception your rebellion has demanded.

Prov. 29:1

The more truthful you are with yourself and God, the more you are delivered from the deceitfulness of sin.

1Thess. 4:1-8

Rev. 14:5, Jude 1:24

To become blameless is to be free of falsehood-not only delivered from sin, but the deception that protects sin. Not only falling, but the rationalizations that we stumble over, or that makes us fall.

The deliverance process- (the removal of a conditioned mind by decades of unbelief, fear and an unbridled thought- life) - is attained by total commitment to the Lord.

In seeking God: Matt. 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

The holiest, most powerful voice that ever spoke described Himself as, “...meek and lowly in heart.”

Holiness is a product of grace- and God gives grace only to the humble.

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Jer. 10:23 O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

Jesus did not condemn sinners-he condemned hypocrites. A hypocrite is a person who excuses his own sin while condemning the sins of another. A hypocrite is one who refuses to admit he is at times two-faced-pretending a righteousness that he fails to live.

A hypocrite does not perceive his own flaws within himself. Does not deal with the corruption in his own heart. He seeks no mercy, he has no mercy to give; since he is always under God's judgment, judging is what comes through him.

We cannot remain hypocrites and at the same time find holiness. Therefore the first step we truly take toward sanctification is to admit we are not as holy as we would like to appear. This first step is called humility.

There are phases in each of our lives where we will be confronted with the impurities of our hearts. The Holy Spirit reveals our sinfulness. At this crossroad both holy men and hypocrites are bred. Those who become holy, see their need and fall prostrate before God for deliverance. They embrace the voice of truth-even if it hurts. Those who become hypocrites are they who see their sin, then excuse it. All men must stand at this junction, few are they who embrace the voice of truth. Sanctification starts not with rules, but with forsaking of pride. Purity begins with our determined refusal to hide from the condition of our hearts. Out of self-discovery comes forth humility, and in meekness true holiness grows.

Without a love for the truth no area of our lives can be corrected.

2 Thess. 2:10-12 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

Delusion: An erroneous, fixed false belief that is held in the face of evidence to the contrary or one who believes what is not true or fails to believe what is true after being confronted with actual facts.

A deluding influence comes upon those that do not love the truth. An "activity of error" takes hold in our lives where the truth does not rule!

Salvation is not a religious procedure - it is the experience of being saved from that which would destroy us!

If you are a slave to sexual lust your thought life and subsequent behavior will be filled with secrecy and condemnation. If you are a slave to fear your thoughts and deeds are in a constant state of alarm. If you are a slave to your appetite, your many trips to the pantry and the lies you tell others about your "metabolism" is a delusion.

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Not In My House

God has put before us a model (Ps. 37:37; Phil. 3:17). God loves to put visual examples or models in our view. The model is a reference point- that when you lose your way or become disoriented, a person can see the model and gain greater insight and direction. *Jer 6:16 Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.*

Man's relationship with God is sustained through holiness. God's holiness engraved upon humanity births a cultural dynamic (Duet 7:1-9; Ps 50:5; 1 Pet 2:9). This in turn fosters traditions. These traditions become placeholders or standards that are used to establish visual, tangible righteous order (2 Thess. 2:15; 3:6). Traditions produce the day-by-day process that allows God's divine nature to fellowship and transfer into man's human nature.

1 Peter 1:13-16; 2 Peter 1:2-4

A placeholder is put on the supper table; to mark the location where a person must sit down.

Ps 23:5; 1 John 1:1-10

When we invite the presence of God in, He desires somewhere to rest, rule, and abide. John 15:1-12

Overcome temptation:

There are two biblical meanings of the word "temptation":

1. Trial; a being put to the test. Thus God "tempted" or proved Abraham (Gen. 22:1). Afflictions are said to tempt, or try, men (James 1:2, 12; compare with Deut. 8:2), by putting their faith and patience to the test.

2. Usually the word means solicitation to that which is evil, and hence Satan is called "the tempter" (Matt. 4:3). Our Lord was in this way tempted in the wilderness. His temptation was not internal, but executed by a real, active, seducing entity. It was not self-sought. It was submitted to as an act of obedience on his part. "Christ was led, driven to the wilderness." (Matt. 4:1-11).

1. Don't touch dead things-contain death seeds. The death seeds are in the pollution and contamination of the world in partnership with the lusts of the flesh – 1 John 2:15-17; Heb 9:14; Ps 119:133; Rom 6:12-16; 2 Peter 2:19; Le 21:1-3, 11; Col 3:1-10

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*Lu 20:37 Now that the dead are raised, even Moses shewed at the bush, when he calleth the Lord the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. 38 For he is **not** a God of the dead, but of the living: for all live unto him.*

Man is communal by nature-has a strong need for relationship. **Whatever we are in relationship with we are related to.** We are to pursue and cohabit with our own kind. Covenant with what we are related. Men are incompatible with animals! (*Gen 1:24 And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. 25 And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.*) This is a biological law. In the New Testament, a spiritual law (reality) -not to bond outside the sanctity of the church. The church is a separate species- a living organism where Christ is the first born. *2 Co. 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

It is spiritually illegal to bond with unbelievers: in GOD's sight spiritual necrophilia- having intimate relations with the dead.

Eph 2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins.

Physical death is separation of the spirit from the body, spiritual death the state of a sinner, is the spirit of man separated from relationship with his Creator. Sin is separation of relationship with God. Eternal damnation is referred to in Rev. 21: 8 as the second death-eternal separation from God. The final step of sin, eternal separation from the presence of God.

Eph. 2:12-13 12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: 13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

To willfully be disobedient and choose a companion who is dead in trespasses and sin is to be involved in spiritual necrophilia. If you break a law, you reap a consequence.

2 Co. 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

The central concept is to avoid intimate contact with dead things. An unholy alliance cannot produce holy matrimony. Holiness is a state of being.

Phil. 3:13 13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

If it is dead, bury it. Admit, quit and forget it-that is all you can do with the past.

Intercourse brings two into oneness (1 Cor. 6:16). Some things may never be resolved- everything that will not be healed must be forsaken. Do not yield body, time, or strength to that old corpse of unsettling issues.

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2. Control your gates- Ps. 24:6-10

Mouth gate “swings out” and defiles the man. Matt 15:13-20; James 3:2-4
Emotional gates Eph. 4:22-32; Prov. 14:29; 16:32; 19:11; 25:28; James 1:19

3. Guard your spirit- 2 Cor. 6:16-18, 7:1;

1 Cor. 10:14-22

Anything (idols) that draws worship from your life attaches to your spirit as a parasite connects to a host.

Ex 34:14 For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God: *study verses Ex. 34:12-18*

God is exclusive unto his children- he expects the church to be in an available position to give glory unto Him. As a wife and a husband is exclusive to one another.

1 Cor. 7:4-5

Cleave to right desires

Ps 27:4 One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.

Ps 34:8; 1 Pet 2:3

2Pe 2:9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

Psalm 31:23, 34:17, 19; 1 Co. 10:13

Fear allows the enemy into your spirit. It is a pit and snare.

Isa 24:17 Fear, and the pit, and the snare, are upon thee, O inhabitant of the earth.

2 Tim 1:7; Rom 8:15; 1 John 4:4; Psalm 37:1-9; Psalm 91

To capitulate to the temptation is to allow the “thief” unfettered access, once a thief has access; he can come and go as he pleases.

Luke 14:21-28; Luke 10:17-20

Demons-disembodied spirits. Have nasty, suicidal nature to them. Incite temptations for one to end all their struggles by ending their life.

Matt. 8:28-34

- *Let God close the door of your spirit to thoughts sent by the enemy, by yielding to Christ, the one who has the keys that shut where no man can open.*
Rev. 3:7 study verses Rev. 3:7-10; Philippians 4:8
- Avoid all things that might lead to compromising situations and sin. Romans 13:13-14.

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- The spiritual battle begins in the mind. 2 Corinthians 10:4-5.
- It is our love for God that holds us back from sin and pushes us to do what is right. 2 Corinthians 5:14.
- Come to Jesus; He knows what you are going through. Hebrews 4:15-16.
- Jesus is your strength in weakness. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10.
- Keep God's Word close to your heart. Psalm 119:11
- Be vigilant in the last days, as the temptations and snares will only increase nearer to the end. Luke 21:34-36.
- Those who do not yield to temptation will be rewarded. James 1:12.