

Perfecting Holiness in the Fear of God for the Priesthood and Preparation for the Lord's Coming

(1 Pet. 1:13-16; 2 Cor. 7:1; 1 Thess. 3:13; 5:23)

I. Introduction – Holiness of the Priesthood

- A. Separation (Eph. 1:4; 2 Tim. 1:9; Jude 1), sanctification (1 Cor. 1:2, 30; 6:11), anointing (Ex. 30:25-30)
- B. Christians and the church are holy (Eph. 2:19-22; 5:25-27; 1 Cor. 3:17; 2 Cor. 6:16-17)
- C. What does this mean in our daily life and church life?
 - 1. Living in the world but not loving it (John 17:15-16; 1 John 2:15-17)
 - 2. Change in our interests, goals, priorities in life (Matt. 6:33; Col. 3:1-4)
 - 3. Peculiar to the world (1 Pet. 2:9-10)
 - 4. Spiritual growth and maturity (Heb. 7:25; 6:1; Rom. 8:29; 1 Cor. 3:1-3)
- D. What does this mean for our functioning in the church?
 - 1. Prayer (Eph. 4:6; 6:18; Phil. 4:6; Col. 4:2; 1 Thess. 5:17)
 - 2. Being knit and built together – fellowship (Rom. 15:2; Eph. 4:16; 1 Tim. 1:3-4).
 - 3. Setting priorities (Matt. 6:33)
 - 4. Seeking edification of the church (1 Cor. 14:26)
- E. Fulfilling our responsibilities as servants of the Lord (Matt. 25:23)

II. Holiness of the High Priest and priests

- A. Garments – a picture of Christ as High Priest for us to wear (Ex. 28)
 - 1. We lack these naturally, but we put on Christ (Eph. 4:22-24)
- B. Holy anointing oil – Holy Spirit (Ex. 30) – a different life within
- C. Keeping the Sabbath holy (Ex. 31:12-17; John 19:31)
- D. Not touching death (Lev. 22:2-6; Num. 5:2-4; 1 John 3:14) leprosy, which is contagious (e.g. King Uzziah, Miriam) (Lev. 13; 2 Chron. 26:16-21; Num. 12:2-10)

III. The believers are called saints and sanctified in Christ Jesus (1 Cor. 1:2, 30; Rom. 1:7)

- A. Being called and separated by God the Father (Eph. 1:4; 2 Tim. 1:9; Jude 1:1)
 - 1. A holy calling (1 Pet. 1:5; 2 Tim. 1:9; 2 Thess. 1:11-12; 2:13-14; 1 Thess. 4:7, 3-4)
 - 2. That we should be holy and without blemish before Him (1 Thess. 3:13)
 - 3. God who called us is faithful to do it (1 Thess. 5:24)
- B. Through the (once for all) offering of the body of Jesus Christ (Heb. 10:10, 14; 13:12)
 - 1. Redeemed by the precious blood of the Lamb (1 Pet. 1:18-20)
 - 2. Cleansed (washed), purified and sanctified by the blood of the covenant (Rev. 1:5; Heb. 9:22; 10:22, 29)
- C. Through sanctification of the Holy Spirit and belief of the truth (Rom. 15:16; 2 Thess. 2:13; 1 Pet. 1:2; John 17:17)
 - 1. Being born of the Holy Spirit in our spirit (John 3:6; Tit. 3:5)
 - 2. Becoming a partaker of the divine nature

3. By the leading, teaching and transforming work of the indwelling Holy Spirit
(John 14:14-17, 26; 15:26; 16:7-14; 1 John 2:27;
2 Cor. 2:18; Heb. 5:12-14 <a warning>)
- D. By the washing of the water in the word
(Eph. 5:26; John 6:63; 15:3; 17:17)

IV. Satan's strategy against holiness

- A. Oppressed by filthy conduct of the wicked and tormented by seeing and hearing lawlessness (2 Pet. 2:6-8)
 1. The father of lies (John 8:44; 2 Thess. 2:7-12)
 2. Redefining our values (Is. 5:20; 2 Tim. 3:1-5)
 3. Debased minds (2 Thess. 2:7-12; Rom. 1:18-32)
- B. Defiling man's entire being (1 Thess. 5:23-24)
 1. Body – vessel unto dishonor, no longer useful (1 Thess. 4:3-8; 2 Tim. 2:20-22; 1 Cor. 6:18-20; 3:16-17)
 2. Soul – darkened and cannot see God (2 Cor. 3:13-15; 2 Cor. 11:3; Eph. 6:16-17; Rom. 1:28-32; Eph. 4:17-19; Heb. 12:14)
 3. Spirit – no discernment for holiness with a defiled, seared conscience (1 Tim. 4:2; 1:19; 1 Cor. 8:7)
- C. Mixture in the world (1 John 2:15-17)
- D. Mixture in Babylon (2 Pet. 2:1-3; Rev. 17:3-6)
- E. Death and leprosy (Lev. 21:1; Ezek. 44:25)
 1. Leprosy – rebellion against God's word
 - a. King Uzziah (2 Chron. 26:16-21)
 - b. Miriam (Num. 12:1-15)
 - c. Separated from God's people
 2. Do not touch (2 Sam. 6:7-8; 1 Chron. 13:9-10; Matt. 19:22)

V. Keeping the feasts to be separated and sanctified

- A. Christ is the reality of all the feasts to separate and sanctify us (Lev. 23:1-44; John 5:46; Col. 2:16-17)
1. Feast of the Passover – saving us from this present evil age
 - a. Coming out of Egypt (Exo. 12:40-42; Heb. 11:24-29)
 - b. Transferred us into the kingdom of His Son (Col. 1:13-14)
 - c. We are not of the world (John 17:14-16)
 - d. Going into the good land – not in Babylon or Sodom/Gomorrah
 - i. No peace treaty when going into the land
 - ii. Conquer and destroy the enemies
 2. Feast of Unleavened Bread – purging away all leaven in us
 - a. Purge out the leaven (1 Cor. 5:7-8)
 - i. Lay aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking (1 Pet. 2:1-3)
 - ii. Cannot love mammon and love the Father (Matt. 6:24)
 - iii. Put off the former conduct, the old man (Eph. 4:17-22)
 - iv. Cleanse ourselves from all filthiness (2 Cor. 7:1; 1 Cor. 6:9-11)
 - b. Eat and gain the humanity of Christ
 - i. Renewing the spirit of our mind and put on the new man (Eph. 4:23-24)
 - ii. The characteristics of the new man (Col. 3:12-15)
 - iii. Eat the word and let the word dwell richly in you (Col. 3:16)
 - iv. Live Christ (Col. 3:17; Phil. 1:21)

3. Feast of the Firstfruits – saving us from death and helping us to mature in life
 - a. Overcome sin and death (Rom. 6:14)
 - b. Separated from the general harvest (Rev. 14:1-5)
4. Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) – filling us with the Holy Spirit
 - a. Separated from the earthly things to be heavenly (Col. 3:1-3)
 - b. Praying from the throne in the heavenlies (Eph. 2:4-7)
 - c. Raptured to the throne of God (Rev. 14:1-3)
5. Feast of Trumpets – helping us to preach the gospel and truths
 - a. Not speaking idle words
 - b. Speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15)
 - c. Preach the word (2 Tim. 4:2)
6. Day of Atonement – reconciling us fully to God by afflicting our souls
 - a. Separate the natural and common life (Matt.16:21-26)
 - b. Follow the Lamb wherever He goes (Matt. 16:24; Rev. 14:4)
7. Feast of Tabernacles – reminding us not to love the world
 - a. Separated from earthly possessions
 - b. Do not be weighed down by the world (Luke 21:34-35)
 - c. Look forward to the heavenly kingdom
 - d. Seek for the city not made by man (Heb. 11:8-10)
- B. The Lord's Table meeting is the reality of all of the feasts (1 Cor. 5:6-8)
 1. Examine ourselves before coming to the feast (1 Cor. 11:27-34)

2. Be cleansed and washed in preparation of the feasts (Heb. 10:19-22)
3. Keep on the first day of the week (Acts. 20:7)
4. Keep the feast every day for our supply

VI. Preparing the offerings to be perfected in holiness

- A. Christ as the reality of all the offerings to make us holy (Lev. 1-7; John 5:46; Col. 2:16)
 1. Burnt offering – obedient and one with the Father to be holy
 - a. Learning obedience - willingness to be trained, corrected, and discipline (Titus 2:11-15; Heb. 12:5-11)
 - b. Submitting to one another (1 Pet. 3:1-7; 2:13-19; 5:5-6; Eph. 5:21)
 2. Meal offering – fine and perfect humanity of Christ in holiness
 - a. Perfected in holiness (1 Cor. 7:1)
 - b. Lay aside leaven (1 Pet. 3:1)
 - c. Eating the Lord to gain His humanity (1 Pet. 3:2-3; John 6:51, 53-58, 63)
 3. Peace offering - fully reconciled with God and man (Eph. 2:14-16)
 - a. Christ is the Prince of Peace (Is. 9:6; Lk. 1:79; 2:14)
 - b. Sons of peace (Lk. 10:5-6)
 - c. No longer enemies of God (Rom. 5:9-11)
 - d. Peacemakers (Matt. 5:9)
 - e. Be found in peace (1 Pet. 3:14)
 - f. Peace of God rule in our hearts (Col. 3:15)
 - g. No strife and division in the priesthood
 4. Sin offering - releasing us from the dominion of sin and death to become holy (John 1:29; Rom. 6:14)

- a. The law of the Spirit of life releasing us from the law of sin and death (Rom. 8:1-2)
- b. Setting our mind on the spirit (Rom. 8:5-6, 13)
- c. No longer I but Christ (Gal. 2:20; 5:24, 16; Phil. 1:21)
5. Trespass offering - forgiving and cleanse us from our trespasses (1 John 1:9)
 - a. The way to come back to the Lord when we sin
 - b. Repentance and restitution
- B. Bringing the offerings, the spiritual sacrifices to God our Father during the feasts (Exo. 23:14-19; 1 Pet. 2:5)
 1. Prepare during the week to have your basket full
 2. Most holy offerings (Lev. 2:3, 10; 6:17, 25-26; 7:6)
 3. Bring the best during the time of the feast (Deut. 12:5-7)
 4. For God the Father's satisfaction (Ezek. 44:15-16)
 5. For the priests also to enjoy (Ezek. 44:29-30)

VII. Holiness of the Temple, representing the Church

- A. Ark of the Testimony (Ex. 25:1-22)
 1. Presence of the God (Ex. 25:22)
 2. Christ is Head of the Church (Eph. 5:23)
- B. Showbread Table (Ex. 25:23-30)
 1. Presence of Food (Matt. 24:45-46;)
- C. Golden lampstand (Ex. 25:31-40; 27:20-21)
 1. Presence of Spirit and Life (1 Cor. 14:24-25; John 7:37-38; Ezek. 47:1-12)
 2. Light (John 1:4-5; 8:12; Eph. 5:8)
- D. Burnt offering altar – application of Christ as the spiritual sacrifices (Ex. 27:1-8)
- E. Incense Altar – continuous prayer (Ex. 30:1-10; Rev. 5:8; 8:3-4)

- F. Bronze Laver (Ex. 30:17-21; Eph. 5:26; Heb. 10:22)
 - 1. Cleansing from defilement and contamination
 - 2. Hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and bodies washed in pure water
- G. Also represented by two leavened loaves – a work in progress (Lev. 23:15-17)
 - 1. Church must undergo cleaning and perfecting work, trials, shaking (Heb. 12:25-29)
 - 2. Do not demand perfection now; what is the church's goal?

VIII. Holiness – a requirement to enter the Millennial Kingdom

(1 Thess. 3:13; 5:23-24; 1 Pet. 1:15)

- A. Consecration (Exo. 29:1-37; Lev. 8:1-36)
 - 1. Wash of water (Eph. 5:26; Heb. 10:22)
 - 2. Christ as the priestly garments (Gal. 3:27; Eph. 4:24)
 - 3. Christ as all the offerings required
 - 4. Peace in the priesthood to serve God
- B. The coming judgment and the establishment of God's kingdom on earth (1 Pet. 4:17-18; Rom. 14:10-13; 2 Cor. 5:9-11)
- C. Closeness to Christ's coming as indicated by the peace plan (1 Thess. 5:1-6)