

Practical Holiness

Introduction

- A. The Bible continually reminds us that God has made an adequate provision for the believer's daily life. We have been blessed with all spiritual blessings and the Holy Spirit Himself has come to be our Helper (Eph. 1:3; John 14:16-20). God has designed the Christian life so we may make a success of it.
 - B. If we are to honor God with our daily life and understand practical holiness we must learn how to walk with God and obey the Scripture - for the glory of God. Success, in the Christian life, as in other realms, is not the result of "luck" but is due to a Biblical knowledge, the setting of correct goals and priorities, and the implementing of all of this by faith and love.
 - C. The old English word "conversation" is often used in the New Testament to translate the Greek word which refers to "behavior" or "manner of life." A better translation would be "daily life."
- I. The Basis for the Biblical Exhortations Regarding Practical Holiness.
- A. Our past life was once patterned by sinful goals, Ephesians 2:2,3.

Wherein in time past ye walked (lived) according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air (Satan), the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience Among whom also we all had our conversation (daily life) in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

Observation: Due to the Fall of Man all of us are born into the world lost and with a sinful nature. How we live, the pattern for our attitudes and actions, and our daily goals, are all structured by this sinful nature. The very roots of our thoughts and values have their origin in that which is contrary to the person and will of God. We are basically self-centered.

- B. The believer has been redeemed from this sinful manner of life, I Peter 1:18,19

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation (daily life) received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

Observation: When Jesus Christ died on the Cross He dealt with our sinful past life. He broke the power and patterns of sin and made it possible for the believer to be free. The Christian is one who has been delivered from sin. In order for this to be a practical matter in our lives we must understand the old patterns of sin, the new patterns of holiness and make the necessary choices. When we practice the truth we can be delivered (John 8:32).

II. The Biblical Exhortations Regarding Practical Holiness.

A. We are to refuse to live according to our old life, Ephesians 4:22,23.

That ye put off concerning the former conversation (daily life) the old man, which is corrupt according to deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind.

Observation: The term "oldman" in these verses refers to the sinful nature we possessed before salvation. This has been dealt with and now the believer possesses a new nature. We still have, however the sinful patterns of behavior which have come from our past. These patterns we must choose to break and repudiate.

B. We are to live according to the pattern of the Gospel, Philippians 1:27.

Only let your conversation (daily life) be as it becometh the gospel of Christ, that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.

Observation: The Gospel, according to Romans 1:1-4 and I Cor. 14:1-4, is the message related to the Lord Jesus Christ, His work and His Word. To live accordingly means to give Jesus Christ His rightful place in our life; to live according to the Crucifixion Resurrection, Ascension, and Pentecost; and to pattern our life after the Scripture. The result of this will be practical holiness and the unity Paul speaks of in this passage.

C. We are to refuse covetousness, be content, and trust God, Hebrews 13:5.

Let your conversation (daily life) be without covetousness and be content with such things as ye have, for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Observation: One of the most serious sinful patterns of life is that of covetousness. God has promised to be with us and to supply our needs. We must believe Him, obey this exhortation and live for His glory - not for ourselves.

D. We are to be holy in all manner of daily life, I Peter 1:14,15.

As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance, but as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation (daily life).

Observation: These verses clearly sum up how we are to be through with our past life and sinful patterns of behavior. As we choose by faith to do this God works in us and produces the holiness of daily practice. In simplicity this means living in harmony with the attributes of truth, love, and holiness.

Conclusion: Practical holiness is a daily responsibility which cannot be avoided. God's promise is clear - when we obey His Word - He works with us and in us to glorify Himself. (Romans 6:16-18; Phil. 2:12,13)

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