

The Biblical Concept of Positional Holiness

Introduction

- A. Christianity and the Christian life are based on reality - not experience. An understanding of positional holiness is important because God is holy!
- B. Therefore, in order to be successful Christians we must understand what the Bible teaches about true holiness and learn to live that way.
- C. Too often what we generally believe about holiness is only a sad caricature. Biblical holiness is positive, peaceable, motivating, fruitful, and most of all - fulfilling.

I. The Basis of Positional Holiness.

- A. Our creation in the image of God.

And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Ephesians U:2U

- B. Our identification in the work of Jesus Christ.

By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all . . . For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. Hebrews 10:10,11;

- C. Our reception of the divine call.

Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people, for all the earth is mine. And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. Exodus 19:5,6

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people, that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. I Peter 2:9

II. The Illustrations of Positional Holiness.

- A. The new birth is characterized by holiness.

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived, neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you, but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. I Cor. 6:9-11

- B. The church is characterized by holiness.

In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth, unto an holy temple in the Lord. In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit. Ephesians 2:21,22

C. The Word of God is characterized by holiness.

Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.
Romans 7:12

D. The office of the Christian is characterized by holiness.

Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.
I Peter 2:5

E. The Christian life is characterized by holiness.

But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation. I Peter 1:15

III. The Demands of Positional Holiness.

A. We must accept our identity.

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy, for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are. I Corinthians 3:16,17

B. We must accept our responsibility.

Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. II Corinthians 7:1

C. We must accept the character of our relationships.

And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you. To the end that he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all saints. I Thess. 3:13,14

D. We must accept our holy office.

Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.
I Peter 2:5

E. We must accept our daily dedication.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. Romans 12:1,2

Conclusion: There can be no substitute for holiness - whether in belief, perspective, priority, action, or goal - because God is holy!