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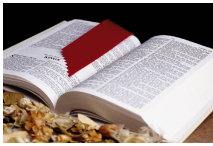
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## So Do You Think You're Holy?

**Romans 12:1:** (NASB) *Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.*



Did you ever stop and wonder what Christianity, in its truest sense, looks like? Is Christianity about getting or giving? Is it about living just like everyone else, or is it about living to a higher standard? Is it about the incessant chatter of everyday life or is it about a life-changing message? Is Christianity about learning to accept yourself as you are, or is it about offering who you are to God to become what he wants you to be? These are questions that can be answered if we understand how holiness fits into the picture. Stay with us as we look at our Christianity and what role "holiness" plays in it.

### Our only question:

### What does it mean to be holy?

(Source: [www.preceptaustin.org](http://www.preceptaustin.org)) The Hebrew word for holiness is *kadesh* which means something which is cut off, separate or set apart. It describes that which is anti-secular (secular = of or relating to the worldly or temporal), in a category all its own. *Kadesh* describes something that is elevated out of the sphere of what is ordinary. The New Testament word *hagios* also means set apart, separate and so in a class by itself. It follows that for believers (saints or "holy ones") the call to be holy is a call to be separated from common use and set apart, or reserved, for special use. In both Old and New Testaments the term is applied to things, persons, and pre-eminently to God Himself.

Holiness means separate or set apart. It is taken out of the ordinary context in which it exists and reserved as special.

**Psalms 43:1-2:** Doesn't this seem like our typical life situation when we try to follow after Christ?  
**Psalms 43:3-4:** We need God's light and truth to be able to find God's dwelling and holiness.

Holiness requires a map, or a GPS - a Godly Personal Standard - not just a goodly one!



### "Because I live you shall live," *Sermon by Joel Osteen*

Is this a Godly Personal Standard thought? Does this thought guide us towards holiness? Yes, it does. "*Because I live, you shall live also.*" (we will quote this text in full shortly...) How are we supposed to live? It stands to reason - if I am a follower of Christ, then I should try to live like him, right? How do we do that? He lived a separate life - "*holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners.*"

**Hebrews 7:23-27:** Here is a comparison between the Jewish priesthood and the priesthood that Jesus himself developed, the true priesthood. The Apostle Paul is comparing the two. The former kept dying and needed replacements. Jesus holds his priesthood permanently. Because he is executing his priesthood forever, he is able to save forever those who draw near to God and makes intercession for those followers. The holiness that the Jewish priesthood developed gave them a temporary fix in their lives. The holiness that Jesus gives us is a permanent development that puts things into a different perspective. Holiness for us at this point is a different experience.

How do we put ourselves in a position so that we are not only feeling different, but acting differently and living differently - not just when we are at church or around certain people, but all the time?

Let's take a look at the scripture on which Mr. Osteen is basing his comments: **John 14:18-24:** Jesus is on his way to give his life in sacrifice. He is encouraging those around him, even though he is the one about to suffer and die. Our GPS tells us to keep Jesus' commandments and love him.

Back to Mr. Osteen's sermon:



### "Jesus' sacrifice is our total victory," *Sermon by Joel Osteen*

- *Includes a financial victory*



Is this a Godly Personal Standard thought? Does this thought guide us towards holiness?

1 Peter 1:13-14: So, our pursuit of holiness is NOT based in how we feel, rather it is based in a disciplined approach - following a map, our GPS, requires focus!

1 Peter 1:13-15-17: Exile doesn't sound like living in abundance. Being holy is being separate - this scripture sounds like it is describing great difficulty, not great abundance.

1 Peter 1:18-20: You were bought from your futile ways. People can live a nice life, but the calling of Christ, holiness, calls you up higher. You were given that introduction through the Lamb of God.

Philippians 4:19: Hmm...what are "His riches" versus our riches? Do these scriptures show abundance?

Luke 11:9-12: Jesus hints towards great abundance in these Scriptures. A good father knows the difference between a good gift and a bad gift. Is our life now supposed to be of total victory, or is a Christian supposed to have "lack" in their lives in the pursuit of holiness?



**Observations about holiness so far:**

- Holiness means to be set apart, to be different;
- Jesus is our primary example of holiness;
- We need God's light and truth to bring us to holiness - we need a map, a Godly Personal Standard;
- Holiness can grow out of having and keeping Jesus' commandments;
- Holiness does not come from how we feel - rather it is developed through discipline;
- God *wants* us to be holy.

(continuing...) Luke 11:13: So all of what Jesus was talking about wasn't about "stuff," it was about the Holy Spirit! It's not about things, but about the power and influence of God in your life. If you want to be holy, what more could you ask for than that?



The Levites were set apart and had no inheritance in the Land. They were treated differently.

Exodus 32:26: *Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the Lord's side? Let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together under him.*



Being holy is to live separately, set apart for service.

Ezra 10:11: *...separate yourselves from the people of the land.*



**"Less is NOT more," Sermon by Leroy Thompson**

- *It is spiritually legal to have abundance.*

Is this a Godly Personal Standard thought? Does this thought guide us towards holiness?

Mark 10:17-27: The man had the right heart condition, trying to follow the Law, living a goodly life. Jesus required that this man sell all he had, but yet he is not requiring that of us. Is looking for abundance the way to holiness? Luke 9:22-26:



**More observations about holiness:**

- Holiness is not measured by riches;
- Holiness is absolutely not measured by a desire for riches.

**Regardless of our financial status, we should be content:** 1 Timothy 6:5,6:



**"No cross to carry," Sermon by Joel Osteen**

- *Free from poverty and lack, see yourself the right way.*



Is this a Godly Personal Standard thought? Does this thought guide us towards holiness? What does it mean to "deny yourself" and "take up your cross?"

1 Corinthians 4:6: Doesn't this sound like a warning?

- To be holy is to see and comply with the Word.

A Christian is supposed to be a good steward. A steward took care of the master's goods. He didn't own the goods but took care of them as if they were his own. That is part of the scriptural concept of what we are supposed to be. We use His goods in His service, not for our personal, fleshly interests.

1 Corinthians 4:7-8: The Apostle is warning that they took this concept of the Gospel and were puffed up, taking things for themselves.

- To be holy is to remember *why* we are as blessed as we are;
- To be holy is to shun arrogance and embrace humility.

So often when we think of the "total victory" approach, we aren't embracing humility or contentment. When Jesus died for our sins, he didn't release us from our responsibilities in life, and he didn't release us from poverty or difficulty either. Some of our greatest lessons and growth come out of difficulties.

1 Corinthians 4:9-10: Don't look for accolades and attention. The Apostles experienced difficulties.

- To be holy is to be willing to suffer worldly embarrassment for Christ's sake.

1 Corinthians 4:11-13:

- To be holy is to sacrifice earthly comfort for the sake of a Godly cause.

It's not about having, it's about giving.

The next clip is Benny Hinn's reaction to an interview Joel Osteen did on Larry King Live, in which Mr. Osteen was extremely non-committal about who can get to heaven.



**"I wanted to punch him out," Sermon by Benny Hinn**

Is this a Godly Personal Standard thought? Does this thought guide us towards holiness?

Luke 9:51-56

- Holiness is not manipulated by circumstances or emotions.

Don't be a Christian nominally, in name only. Nominalism is not holy and can't bring us to holiness. We need to rise above a sub-par standard. Matthew 7:15-23



Sometimes the only Bible people will ever read is our character.

1 Peter 1:14,15: *As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;*

- Holiness is *not* a product of what we do and say on the outside;
- Holiness *is* a product of the fruit of our lives (our character) and based on our words and actions.


**Theme Text:** Romans 12:1-2

- Holiness is the sacrifice of all of one's self to be transformed into a vessel of service to God.

**Let's look at God's Holiness:** Isaiah 6:1-3



(Source: Joy Thompson) The repetition of the word holy suggests that God is infinitely holy, infinitely clean, pure, infinitely sanctified. His justice is incomparably set apart to create accountability. His love is incomparably set apart to create highest good and healing for all. His Wisdom is incomparable set apart to carry out the reconciliation and transformation process in the most effective way for all. His power is incomparably set apart to implement His purpose, with the ability to deal with every obstacle and force opposing highest blessing.

 "I sowed a \$1,000.00 seed," Sermon by Mason Betha

- *This morning I sowed a \$1,000 seed believing for a bunch of miracles to come to my wife.*

Is this a Godly Personal Standard thought? Does this thought guide us towards holiness? Can we buy miracles?

We don't pay so that we can receive. But how can we give if we don't have a lot to begin with? Jesus focused us on taking up his cross and denying self. God doesn't want our money, he wants our hearts. That's where holiness comes from. We can give one another our prayers without ceasing. We can be a person who takes another's situations to heart and pray for God's will to be done - according to God's riches.

Here is the text that "seed" was based upon: Psalms 115:11-15: As "spiritual Israel," we should be looking for spiritual blessings.

- Holiness does not look for lots of stuff!

1 Peter 2:9

- Holiness trades in earthly inheritances for the privilege of proclaiming God's plan.

1 Peter 2:10-11

- Holiness has no home here, rather it longs for its spiritual home;
- Finally, true holiness has no will of its own.

Contentment is still working hard within the context we find ourselves - whether in abundance or if sparse.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5: Avoid being a nominal Christian - rise above!

*So do you think you're holy?  
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!*