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Suggested Order:

1. Why I Believe in the Bible
2. Why I Believe in Bible Salvation
3. Why I Believe in One God
4. Why I Believe in Holiness
5. Why I Believe in Creation



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Youth Bible Study Series

Why I Believe in Holiness

suggested order: lesson four

What is Holiness



Holiness is not only one of God's most basic characteristics, but it is also one of the only attribute that He specifically requires of us. Holiness is both a "separation from" and a "consecration to" something. In other words, holiness is separating ourselves from sin and everything else that is not pleasing to God while, at the same time, consecrating ourselves to God and His perfect will for our lives. There are two ways we should show "true holiness":

1 Inside (heart) Because everything, not only physically, but also spiritually, centers on the heart, holiness must begin in the heart (inside). For holiness to take effect, there must be a change in our affections, desires, and motives. When holiness begins inside, what our flesh once loved and wanted will no longer control us; instead, we will love what God loves, and we will want what God wants. Holiness that begins on the inside is the only guarantee for lasting holiness.

Proverbs 23:7
Matthew 23:27-28
Ephesians 4:23-24

2 Outside (body) Holiness that begins in the heart will eventually show itself in our bodies (outside). In fact, the only way we can show holiness is by the way that we live out our lives—act, talk, dress. While inside holiness includes our attitudes and thoughts, outside holiness includes our actions and appearance. Inside and outside holiness cannot be separated. Outside holiness means very little without inside holiness, but inside holiness always results in outside holiness.

Romans 6:19, 22; 12:1-2
1 Corinthians 3:16;
6:19-20
1 Thessalonians 5:23

"True holiness" is not only separating ourselves from everything that is unlike God and consecrating ourselves to everything that is like God, but "true holiness" is also holiness that begins in the heart and shows itself in our lives.

Myth Buster! Myth: "Holiness is optional, right?"

Truth: Holiness is not optional. Hebrew 12:14 states that without holiness "no man shall see the Lord."

How Can We See His Holiness?

God is holy! According to 1 Samuel 2:2, "There is none holy as the LORD." The Bible records the word "holy" or "holiness" over 650 times. Although the word "holy" is found first in Exodus 3:5, we can see the holiness of God from the very beginning.

When "God created the heaven and the earth," and everything that was in them, "God saw that it was good" (Genesis 1:1, 25). The garden of Eden reflected God's holiness. In the garden of Eden, the weather was perfect, there were no weeds or thorns, and the lion played with the lamb. But when God "formed man" and "breathed into his nostrils the breath of life," God saw that His creation was "very good" (Genesis 2:7; 1:31). We are the crown of His creation.

When God created man, He created man in His image and after His likeness. According to Ecclesiastes 2:7, "God...made man upright (holy)." In other words, God created us to reflect His holiness. When other people look at us, they should see God and His holiness in us. God created man to:

1 Know Him

Isaiah 43:10
Jeremiah 9:24
2 Peter 2:18

2 Love Him

Deuteronomy 6:5
John 8:42
1 John 5:3

3 Please Him

Proverbs 16:17
Hebrews 11:5
Revelation 4:11

Thank you for taking your time to go through this Bible study.

We pray this Bible study has helped you understand why we believe in Holiness. As you study the Bible, let it become more than just a book to you. Let it become alive to you as it has to so many others!

God has so many jewels in His Word that are just waiting to be found! So search the Bible for yourself and find your own relationship with God. There is nothing that can take the place of your own personal experience with God and His Word.

How Can I Be Holy?

Holiness is the aligning of our inside (heart) and outside (body) to God's standard for our lives. Holiness is loving what God loves and hating what God hates. But without God's mercy, spirit, and grace saving, guiding, and teaching us, holiness is impossible. There is no possible way that we can be holy on our own. Why? Because according to Paul there is nothing good in our flesh. (See Romans 7:18.) Isaiah 64:6 says, "All our righteousnesses (holiness) are as filthy rags." "There is none righteous, no, not one...there is none that doeth good, no, not one" (Romans 3:10, 12). No matter how hard we try, without the Holy Ghost, without God's spirit helping us, we can never be good enough.

But that is why Jesus came and took on our sin: "that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (2 Corinthians 5:21). While on our own, we can never be holy, through God, holiness is possible.

John 14:26; 16:13
Titus 2:11-12; 3:5
Romans 7:14-25

So what about us should be holy? According to...

- Matthew 5:8, our hearts should be holy.
- Romans 12:2, our minds should be holy.
- Ephesians 4:26, our attitudes should be holy.
- Romans 12:1, our bodies should be holy.
- 1 Corinthians 11:4-16, our hair should be holy.
- Psalm 101:3, our eyes should be holy.
- Proverbs 4:10, our ears should be holy.
- Psalm 45:2, our lips should be holy.
- Colossians 4:6, our speech should be holy.
- 1 Timothy 2:8, our hands should be holy.
- Psalm 26:12, our feet should be holy.
- 1 Timothy 2:9-10, our dress should be holy.
- 1 Samuel 2:3, our actions should be holy.
- John 3:21, our deeds should be holy.

God communicates His holiness to us in three main methods: His Word, His Spirit, and His Messenger (preacher). Each of these can teach us how to be holy!



Frequently Asked Questions



1. Is God only concerned with how we are on the inside?

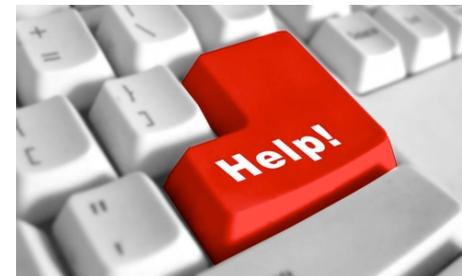
No. Scripture makes it clear that God cares about both inward and outward holiness. (See Matthew 23:26.) In fact, the Bible refers to our external actions and appearance as being a reflection of our internal condition. (See Mark 7:20-23; Luke 6:45.) We must remember, that while God can see our heart,

man does not have this ability. (See 1 Samuel 16:7; 2 Corinthians 3:1-3.) Our lives are witness to others! So, we must be sure that both, inside and outside, give glory to God.

2. Is Holiness difficult?

Yes and No. Both "yes" and "no"? How can that be? It is difficult, actually impossible, for us to be truly holy without God's Holy Spirit. (See Romans 7:18.)

However, when we receive the promise of the Holy Ghost, we now have the Holy Spirit of God inside us, helping and enabling us. (See 2 Corinthians 7:1; 1 Peter 1:2; John 14:26.) Holiness is now easily attainable.



3. At what point are we "holy"?

In one sense, as soon as we are saved God considers us holy; because one of the benefits of salvation is the "gift of righteousness," i.e., God gives us His righteousness! (Romans 5:17). On the other hand, like many areas of Christianity, holiness is a journey. Proverbs 4:18 beautifully describes this journey "as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." In other words, as we mature as Christians our thoughts, words, and actions should continue to show more and more of Jesus.

4. Why do we need to be holy?

Both the Old and New Testament answer this question: we should be holy, because God is holy. (See Leviticus 11:44-45; 1 Peter 1:15-16.) This only makes sense, since we are made in His image, God wants us to be like Him. (See Genesis 1:27.)



What Are The Benefits?

1 Glory One of the benefits of being holy and having a holy God is His glory. God's glory dwells where holiness is, since that's His nature. If we can let His holiness transform us, God's presence will be comfortable around us! His unequalled glory is exactly what we want to experience!

Exodus 33:17-23
Acts 7:55
Revelation 21:23

2 Trust A God that is holy has pure motives. In any relationship, trust is a must! When we trust in God to direct our life, we can always be sure that He's looking out for our best interest.

Numbers 23:19
Proverbs 3:5-6
Isaiah 48:17

3 Power Power is a benefit of having a holy God and allowing Him to fill us with the Holy Ghost. When we allow God's holiness to dwell inside of us, it will give us power to stand up for what is right, even in the face of peer pressure.

Mark 16:16-18
Acts 1:8; 10:38
Romans 1:3-4; 15:13

4 Protection Holiness is not just rules and regulations to keep us from having fun. Instead, look at it like a fence that is built by God, His Word, His Spirit, and His Messenger to keep out everything that may harm you. God, in His wisdom, provided holiness to protect us!

Deuteronomy 6:24-25
Psalm 86:2
2 Chronicles 20:21-22

5 Growth Since God is holy, He wants us to be holy. That means He will not leave us like He found us. God always has somewhere higher for us to go, if we'll just let Him take us there. Holiness is a journey, not a destination.

Isaiah 35:8-9
John 14:26
2 Corinthians 7:1

6 Heaven Holiness will take us all the way to heaven. The only people that will be allowed to enter heaven are those who keep themselves holy. Without holiness, we cannot see God or the beautiful place He is preparing. Heaven is the ultimate place of perfection, and holiness will help us stay on the right path to get there.

Romans 6:22
Hebrews 12:14
Revelation 21:2

Why Holiness?

God is Holy From the beginning of time, in creation, we find God immediately separating what He created. In Genesis 1, He separated light from darkness, water from land, and day from night. God also separates those that have been filled with His Spirit from sin. God does not mix with sin: either our sin stays and God leaves or God stays and our sin leaves. God's nature is perfect; it is pure holiness.

2 Corinthians 6:14, 17
1 Peter 1:15-16
1 John 1:5

When God separated the children of Israel from Egypt, He explained this idea to His people. (See Leviticus 11:45.) When we are baptized in Jesus' Name and receive the Holy Ghost, we leave behind our "old" sinful ways and begin to receive "new" holy ways. (See 2 Corinthians 5:17.)

Why can God demand us to be holy? First, because it is possible. Second, because it is His right as our Creator and as our Savior. Because we are "bought with a price" and "are God's," we must give up our own selfish desires and align ourselves with God's desires (1 Corinthians 6:20). There are two main reasons we should strive for holiness:

God Expects Us To Be Holy

1 To Be Saved The Bible makes it very clear that holiness is necessary for salvation. God also makes it plain that if we do not keep ourselves holy (heart & body), we will experience God's anger and destruction. None of us will be saved by our own good works; we're just not good enough. We need God's holiness to be saved!

Hebrews 12:14
1 Corinthians 3:16-17
Isaiah 64:6-7

2 To Be Perfected Holiness is not just an immediate location, it is a journey that brings us closer to Jesus Christ. While we're here on earth, we should always strive to become more like God. We do that by allowing God's perfect nature to change the way we think, act, talk, and dress. His grace will teach us how we can live holy, even in this wicked world.

Isaiah 35:8-9
2 Corinthians 7:1
Titus 2:11-12