The Pursuit of Holiness

Jerry Bridges

Chapters 1 - 4
What does the world expect of the Christian?

• Moral perfection?
  - What would that mean or look like and would it mean something different to the Christian than it does to the world?

Evangelical leader says he bought meth but 'never used it'
POSTED: 5:50 p.m. EST, November 3, 2006

Evangelical Leader: Young Protestant Couples Rejecting “Contraception Revolution”

Evangelical support of Republicans drops
No progress on Christian issues. But 'alternatives are downright frightening'

Evangelical support for Iraq war slipping
18:06 ET, Thu 26 Oct 2006
What defines you as a Christian?
Leviticus 11:44

• For I am the LORD your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy. You shall not defile yourselves with any swarming thing that crawls on the ground.

• What is the book of Leviticus about?
  - Scan the headlines...

• What do these rules do...
  - Test obedience and practice self-denial
  - To keep establish distinction
  - To aid in identifying holy vs. unholy

  • Note the rules include NOT just eating but touching - AVOID TEMPTATION B/C YOU WILL FAIL
How does God’s Holiness interface with mankind?

- **Job 38 - 42**
  - What is God pointing out to Job?
  - What did Isaiah immediately recognize when he came in the presence of God?

- “To be Holy is to be morally blameless - to be separated from sin and, therefore, consecrated to God”
  - God badgered Job into acknowledging the chasm between man and God
14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. Romans 6:14

Do you believe this...?

Or this...?

1 Corinthians 10:13
The second Adam

- Adam/Eve’s temptation
  - Genesis 3
  - So when the woman saw that the *tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise*, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked.

- Jesus’ temptation
  - Matthew 4
  - Provision
    - “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God”
  - Significance
    - “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down…”
    - “You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’
The condensation...

- What in one word (or conversely one commandment?) is critical difference between the first and second Adam?

IDOLATRY!

- What are your idols and how do they impede your progress to holiness?
What are the problems with our becoming holy?

- **SIN!**
  - Our attitude toward sin is more “self-improvement” than obedience to God
  - Our attitude toward sin is too blasé
    - Ignorance or apathy?

- **Misconception about the meaning of “living by faith.”**
  - Where the Israelites instructed to do just anything with the expectation that their “distinction” would just happen?
Just what are we called to measure up to?

• Does God ask you to merely acknowledge He is Holy? Is this even possible - could you just acknowledge God’s Holiness?
  - No - just in case you were wondering

• but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." 1 Peter 1:15-16
Solomon - lessons in wisdom?

• How long do we have to “conform?”

• 1 Kings 11
  - When did Solomon lose it - his wild and crazy youth or his venerable years?
  - Did Solomon “pay” for his disobediance?

• Genesis 18
  - Is God merciful?
  - Would you look back?
All or nothing...

• You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me

Exodus 20:5

- Who is God jealous of - careful!?

• Joshua 24:14-15

- Whom are you going to choose?
Holiness is NOT an option

• Hebrews 12:12 - 14
  - “Without holiness no one will see God”
  - What preceded this statement?
  - What do you bring to the equation?
    • Isaiah 64:6
  - Who’s obedience solves the equation?
    • Romans 5:19
    • 1 Peter 3:18
    • Remember propitiation?
  - If you’re saved is Holiness an option?
    • What are the possible explanations for the “fallen” Christian?
What do we make of this...?

- 28 Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.
- 29 For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. 30 That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. 31 But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world. 1 Corinthians 11

- Incidentally this is the reason traditional reformed churches have kept children from participating in the Lord’s Supper
What keeps you up at night?

- “Everyone, then, who professes to be a Christian should ask himself, “Is there evidence of practical holiness in my life?” Do I desire and strive after holiness? Do I grieve over my lack of it and earnestly seek the help of God to be holy?”

  - The Pursuit of Holiness, page 38
The Rock of Salvation

• The design of holiness

- Comprehend the work of the Cross
- Recognize our need for holiness
- Appreciate God’s Holiness
- Recognize our deficit and need for Christ
“Holiness does not consist in mystic speculations, enthusiastic fervours, or uncommanded austerities; it consists in thinking as God thinks, and willing as God wills.” John Brown

• What’s does it mean to be a Christian?
• What is your attitude toward sin?
• What is your response to God Holiness and to Christ’s propitiation?
• How do you become holy or restated what is the process of sanctification?