

Session Six:

Live Holy

I) Introduction

1. In an hour of increased immorality, sexual perversion and the erosion of Biblical absolutes within our culture, it's imperative that those who love Jesus understand God's purpose for holiness.
2. While many in the Church seek to run from the sinfulness of our culture, it's Jesus' intention that we would run into it, empowered by the Holy Spirit and alive in Him.
 - a) **John 17:15,17** *"I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one...Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth."*

II) Becoming Preoccupied With Superior Pleasures

1. At its core, the call from God to live holy, is a call to live preoccupied with the superior pleasure of loving God and being loved by God.
 - a) **Song of Songs 1:2,4** *"...for Your love is better than wine...we will remember Your love more than wine."*
2. Pleasure is amoral. Meaning that it's neither right nor wrong. As humans we have been given an internal longing for pleasure, but how we satisfy that pleasure determines if it's sinful or holy.
3. The longing for pleasure is ultimately satisfied when God reveals God to the human heart.
 - a) **Luke 24:27,31-32** *"And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself...then their eyes were opened and they knew Him...and they said to one another, did not our heart burn with us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"*
4. When we feel a little bit of God upon our hearts we become hungry for more. These touches of God, leave an ache within us for more. But many people don't see their ache/hunger as a gift from God to us (**Matt. 5:6**).
5. Much of our attempt to live holy in Christ, has been more about rules, systems and dead religion than it's been about preoccupation/fascination. Denying our sinful lusts without being preoccupied/fascinated in Christ will only starve those passion's for a while. They'll return!
6. Our boredom, burnout and compromise springs from a lack of fascination. Fascinated people endure much because of their preoccupation/fascination (**Heb. 12:2**).
7. The season of Jesus' return will present a global climate that's fully ripe with sin(**Mat. 13:24-30,36-43**). In order to remain faithful to Jesus and resist what's being offered to the masses (counterfeit pleasure) our hearts will have to be preoccupied/fascinated with Jesus Christ.

III) Setting Our Hearts To Live In Complete Obedience

1. As our hearts become fascinated in Christ, it's essential that we obey His commands as our way of showing Him that we love Him.
 - a) **John 14:15** *"If you love Me, keep My commandments."*
2. The God who calls us to live holy (**1st Peter 1:16**) is also the same God who empowers us to do it. God commands us to live holy, which means He's committed to helping us do it.
3. Living in complete obedience to Jesus includes our speech (**James 3:2**), our eyes (**Job 31:1**), our physical bodies (**1st Cor. 9:25-27**), our time (**Eph. 5:16**), our money (**Luke 16:11**) and our minds/thought life (**2nd Cor. 10:3-6**).
4. There is a difference between aiming at complete obedience and attaining it. Jesus calls us to reach for it, not attain it. Holiness (obedience) is a journey, never a destination.
 - a) **Philippians 3:12-14** *"Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward..."*
5. Total obedience means that God enjoys us as we reach for Him, though we fall. But when we fall, we repent, press delete and keep running forward.

IV) Three Practical Truths Of Living Holy

1. It's possible to receive the grace of God in vain. This means that we do nothing with what we've been given and we live with the assumption that God is going to do all the work.
 - a) **2nd Cor. 6:1; 1st Cor. 15:10** *"We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain...and His grace towards me wasn't in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was given to me."*
2. Firstly, in order to resist sin and pursue God we must **KNOW** who we are in Christ and we must **KNOW** God as our Father who loved us and loves us (**Romans 6:11**).
3. Secondly, we must **RESIST** sin, satan and sin provoking circumstances in order to live holy. Knowing is powerful, but only as we put it into practice (**Romans 6:12-13a**).
 - a) This means that we don't purchase, peek at or go to places/things that provoke sin.
4. Thirdly, we must **PURSUE** intimacy with God and present our bodies for God to use (**Romans 6:13b**).
5. We must **KNOW** truth, **RESIST** sin and **PURSUE** God.