

Morning Sermon Outline – January 8, 2017
“The High Calling of Holiness” 1 Peter 1:14-15

as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance;¹⁵ but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct, (1 Peter 1:14-15 NKJ)

I. True Holiness starts with the new birth – John 3:7
"Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' (John 3:7 NKJ)

1. Without the New Birth the things of God are not seen, desired or understood - John 3:3; 1 Corinthians 2:14

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

1 Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

2. The New Birth allows for the opening of spiritual eyes -
Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,¹⁶ do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,¹⁸ the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, (Ephesians 1:15-18 NKJ)

Though we see in a glass darkly and know just "in part" –
For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. (1 Corinthians 13:12 NKJ)

By God's grace we can see God and His Kingdom –
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. (Matthew 5:8 NKJ)

3. So, true holiness is not an accumulation of so-called good works, done in the flesh, rather it is the fruit of a new, powerful, spiritual, divine life within; it is the result of the spiritual heart surgery only God can do – Ezekiel 36:26-27

Ezekiel 36:26 "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

II. True Holiness leads to a hunger for the heavenly –

1. A change of nature will ultimately lead to a change of appetites and desires – 2 Corinthians 5:17

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

2. The change that happens when a person becomes a Christian is dramatic, the lust of the flesh should be curtailed and it is replaced by new desires and delights:

as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance;¹⁵ but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct, (1 Peter 1:14-15 NKJ)

We have NEW Desires for -

- A. For the pure milk of the Word – 1 Peter 2:2

NKJ 1 Peter 2:2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,

- B. For things above – Colossians 3:2

NKJ Colossians 3:2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

- C. For righteousness –

NKJ Matthew 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.

III. True Holiness will show itself in an increasing liveliness in the service and worship of God –

1. *The more we depend upon God, and feed on His Word, the more energetic we will be in service – Isaiah 40:31; Psalm 119:11*

NKJ Isaiah 40:31 But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

NKJ Psalm 119:11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!

2. *The closer we get to God the more our love for Him will move us*
– Daniel 11:32

NKJ Daniel 11:32 "Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.

3. *Those creatures closest to God are the liveliest -*

NKJ Revelation 4:8 The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"

4. *Like Jacob's love for Rachel love for God should make service of God and holiness easier* – Genesis 29:20; Deuteronomy 6:4-5

NKJ Genesis 29:20 So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed only a few days to him because of the love he had for her.

NKJ Deuteronomy 6:4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! 5 "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

IV. *True Holiness will make its mark on every aspect of a person's life* – Deuteronomy 6:4-5

NKJ Deuteronomy 6:4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! 5 "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

V. *True Holiness is dependent upon a vital union with Christ and leads to an ever increasing conformity to His image* – John 15:5; 1 John 2:6; Romans 8:29

NKJ John 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

NKJ 1 John 2:6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

NKJ Romans 8:29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

VI. *True Holiness will make us odd-balls in this sin-filled world -*

NKJ John 15:18 "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.

NKJ Philippians 2:15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.

VII. *True Holiness is a process, not a finished achievement, on earth* – Philippians 3:12

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 has also laid hold of me. (Philippians 3:12 NKJ)

VIII. *True Holiness is our one true need as Christians* – Hebrews 12:14

NKJ Hebrews 12:14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

1. True Holiness fits us for God's Kingdom – 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11 NKJ)

2. True Holiness makes us more and more like Christ – Romans 8:28-29; 1 John 3:1-2

NKJ Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

NKJ 1 John 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

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