

The Beauty of Holiness

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— Study Note Outline —
BH1

Four-Part Series

- 4007 *God Demands Holiness in His People*
- 4008 *God's Provision for Holiness*
- 4009 *How God's Provision Works in Our Lives*
- 4010 *How You May Sanctify Yourself*

God Demands Holiness in His People 4007

I. Introduction

A. Relationship between *holiness* and *sanctification*

1. Both are derived from the same root word.
2. *Saints* = “holy ones” — *Sanctify* = “to make holy”

B. What is “Holiness”?

1. A unique aspect of God’s nature, without parallel elsewhere.
2. Contrast: wisdom, Knowledge, Justice, Power, Love
3. Understanding of holiness comes only as we come to know God (The knowledge of the holy, Prov. 30:3)

II. The Whole Bible Emphasizes God’s Holiness

A. Old Testament

1. Holy, holy, holy . . . the triune God (Is. 6:1–8; comp. Rev. 4:8)
2. Glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders (Ex. 15:11)
3. Choose whom you will serve (Josh. 24:19)
4. “There is none holy as the Lord” – Hannah praises the Lord (1 Sam. 2:2)
5. God is holy, enthroned upon the praises of Israel (Ps. 22:3)

B. God’s holiness provokes man’s humility. Theme: high, holy, humble. (Is. 57:15)

III. God Demands Holiness in His People

A. The Theme of Leviticus

1. The word *holy* occurs more than 60 times in Leviticus: “You shall be holy” (Lev. 11:44, 45; 19:2; 20:7, 26)
2. One great responsibility of the priesthood was to teach God’s people the difference between holy and unholy, clean and unclean (Lev. 10:10)

B. Other Scriptures

1. A kingdom of priests, and a holy nation – distinct, unlike anything else (Ex. 19:6)
2. A peculiar people to God, above all the other nations (Deut. 14:2)
3. God’s peculiar people, publicly acknowledged by God—distinct from all others, a victorious, reigning people (Deut. 26:18–19)

C. Carried over into the New Testament

1. “Be ye holy; for I am holy” (1 Pet. 1:15–16)
 2. A chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people (1 Pet. 2:9; comp. Rev. 1:5–6; 5:10)
 3. Perfect holiness in the fear of God (2 Cor. 7:1)
 - a. Cleansed from filthiness of the flesh and the spirit
 - b. Come out and be separate
 4. Holiness is linked with the imminent expectation of Christ’s return – Christ’s coming is the great motivation toward holiness (1 Thess. 3:13)
 5. The body kept in holiness and honor (1 Thess. 4:3–4)
 6. Sanctification includes every area: spirit, soul and body (1 Thess. 5:23)
 7. We are disciplined that we might be partakers of His holiness (Heb. 12:10)
 8. Holiness is not optional; it’s part of total salvation (Heb. 12:14; comp. Prov. 4:18)
- D. Holiness (in the Spiritual) Corresponds to Beauty (in the Natural)**
1. Holiness becometh thine house—God’s people (Ps. 93:5)
 2. Worship is beautified by holiness (Ps. 96:9)
 3. Willing offerings—like sparkling dew on the leaves (Ps. 110:3)
 4. Put on the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit in the heart, not external adornment (1 Pet. 3:4)

God’s Provision for Holiness

4008

I. God’s Provision

- A.** God made provision to partake of His total nature (2 Pet. 1:3–4; comp. Eph. 4:13)
 1. A life of multiplying – not static
 2. Comes through knowing God
- B.** Four Statements
 1. Full provision has already been made by God’s power
 2. Provision comes through the progressive acknowledging of Christ
 3. The provision is in the promises of God
 4. Results: we partake of God’s nature and we escape the world’s corruption
- C.** We must appropriate it
- D.** This includes partaking of God’s holiness (Heb. 12:10)

II. Seven Aspects of God’s Provision for Holiness

1. In Christ
 2. The cross (the place of sacrifice)
 3. The Holy Spirit
 4. The blood of Jesus
 5. The Word of God
 6. Our faith
 7. Our works (actions expressing our faith)
- A. In Christ**
1. Through the knowledge (acknowledging) of Jesus Christ (2 Pet. 1:3)
 2. Our sanctification is in Christ Jesus (1 Cor. 1:2)

3. Jesus is four things to every believer: wisdom, righteousness, holiness and redemption (1 Cor. 1:30; John 1:17; Rom. 8:32)
4. All things with Christ, nothing without Christ
- B. The Cross (the Place of Sacrifice)**
 1. By one offering (sacrifice) He has perfected (perfect tense) forever those that are being sanctified (continuous tense) (Heb. 10:14)
 2. What Jesus has done on the cross is perfect and forever
 3. Our appropriation is continuing and progressive
- C. The Holy Spirit**
 1. We are all sinners, *but* we are washed, sanctified, justified, in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God (1 Cor. 6:11)
 2. Chosen in eternity, sanctified by the Holy Spirit, brought into salvation (2 Thess. 2:13)
 3. In God's foreknowledge (1 Pet. 1:2; 1 John 1:7)
- D. The Blood of Jesus**
 1. Through obedience, the Holy Spirit ministers to us the blood of Jesus (1 Pet. 1:2)
 2. Through the blood of the covenant, the believer is sanctified (Heb. 10:29)
 3. Jesus provided the blood by which we are sanctified (Heb. 13:12)
- E. The Word of God**
 1. The truth of God's Word sanctifies the believer (John 17:17)
 2. The Holy Spirit brings us to believe the truth of God's Word (2 Thess. 2:13)
 3. Christ sanctifies and cleanses the church with the washing of water by the word – it should be holy and without blemish (Eph. 5:26–27)
 4. Illustrated by the type of the laver – made of brass from the mirrors of the women (Ex. 30:18–21; 38:8)
 5. Replace concern for outward physical appearance by concern for inward spiritual experience. (comp. 1 John 5:6, 8 – the Spirit, the water, the blood)
- F. Our Faith**
 1. Sanctification of the Spirit and belief (faith) of the truth (2 Thess. 2:13)
 2. Forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among those who are sanctified by their faith (Acts 26:18; Col. 1:12)
- G. Our Works (Actions expressing our faith)**
 1. Faith without works is dead (James 2:26)
 2. Cleanse ourselves from filthiness (2 Cor. 7:1)
 3. Work out your salvation in fear and trembling (comp. Phil. 2:12–13)

How God's Provision Works in Our Lives

4009

I. God's Foreknowledge and Choice (in Christ)

- A. Elect (chosen) according to the foreknowledge of God (1 Pet. 1:2)
- B. The Father . . . hath chosen us in him (Christ) . . . to be holy . . . having predestinated us unto the adoption of children (Eph. 1:4–5; Rom. 8:29)
 1. Conformed to the image of His Son – the climax of sanctification
 2. Progress is from adoption (legal) to conformity (experiential)

II. The Holy Spirit Draws, Separates, Reveals

- A. God foreknew and chose in eternity—the Holy Spirit sanctifies in time (1 Pet. 1:2)
- B. The work of the Spirit commences before we are saved (2 Thess. 2:13)
- C. Paul: God separated him from his mother’s womb—though he was first a persecutor of the church (Gal. 1:15)
- D. Jeremiah: His destiny was settled before his birth—though he was unaware of it (Jer. 1:5)

III. Our Destiny Brings Us to Hear the Preaching of the Cross

- A. The preaching of the Word brings opportunity for commitment (2 Thess. 2:13–14; Rom. 8:29)
- B. Our response decides our destiny (1 Cor. 1:18)
- C. We are apprehended by Christ (Phil. 3:12)

IV. As We Obey, the Blood Is Applied

- A. We obey, and the blood of Jesus Christ sprinkles us (1 Pet. 1:2)
- B. Satan’s claims are cancelled. We are set apart to God through the blood of Jesus (Acts 26:18)
- C. We have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins (Eph. 1:7)
- D. Translated out of the realm of Satan’s authority into the kingdom of Christ (Col. 1:13–14)

V. Thereafter We Are Continually Washed by God’s Word

- A. God’s Word washes and cleanses us (it’s our laver) (Eph. 5:26)
- B. This mirror shows us our true spiritual condition (James 1:23–25)
 - 1. We are responsible to act on what we see
 - 2. The brass of the laver and the mirror typifies judgment.
 - 3. As we judge ourselves, we are preserved from God’s judgment (1 Cor. 11:31)
- C. We are progressively changed by the Holy Spirit into the likeness of what we see
 - 1. We are conformed to the image of Christ (2 Cor. 3:18)
 - 2. Heb. 11:27; 2 Cor. 4:17–18
- D. Sanctified (perfect tense) by the Holy Spirit – perfect tense denotes the completion of the Holy Spirit’s sanctifying work, begun before we were saved (Rom. 15:16)

VI. By Faith, We Accept What God’s Word Reveals

- A. Accepted (Eph. 1:6)
- B. No condemnation (Rom. 8:1)
- C. Justified (Rom. 5:9)
- D. Sanctified (Heb. 13:12)
- E. Continually cleansed (1 John 1:7)
- F. We reckon ourselves dead to sin, alive to God (Rom. 6:11)

VII. In Our Actions We Work Out What God’s Word Reveals

- A. Negative
 - 1. No longer yield our members to sin (Rom. 6:12–13)
 - 2. We mortify (keep dead) our members from sinful practices (Col. 3:5; comp. 2 Tim. 3:5)
 - 3. Separate ourselves from the ungodly – flee youthful lusts (2 Tim. 2:22)
- B. Positive
 - 1. We yield ourselves and our members to God (the Holy Spirit) (Rom. 6:13)

2. We purify ourselves by progressive obedience to God's Word (1 John 3:3; 1 Pet. 1:22)
 3. We associate with those who have like objectives (2 Tim. 2:22)
 4. We claim God's promises (2 Cor. 7:1)
- C. Illustration of Jacob's ladder (Gen. 28:12–13)
1. From earth to heaven
 2. From corruption to the divine nature
 3. Each rung a promise (2 Pet. 1:4)

How You May Sanctify Yourself

4010

I. A Pattern of Jesus

- A. The Father sanctified the Son and sent Him into the world (John 10:36)
1. God the Father chose Jesus for a special task
 2. He set Him apart for that task
 3. God sent Him to fulfill that task
- B. Jesus sanctified Himself (John 17:19)
1. He acknowledged God's choice
 2. He recognized the task
 3. Sanctification is, first, to God and second, to the task
- C. Jesus delighted to do the Father's will. (Ps. 40:7–8; comp. Heb. 10:7)
1. He came from heaven specially to do the Father's will (John 6:38)
 2. In doing the Father's will, Jesus revealed the Father (John 14:9)
 3. In fulfilling the Father's task, Jesus glorified the Father (John 17:4)
- D. Jesus sends His disciples each to fulfill a special task (John 17:17–19; 20:21)
- E. Disciples are sanctified by fulfilling the task given (Heb. 2:11)
1. Jesus was sanctified in fulfilling the task given to Him by the Father
 2. Disciples both reveal and glorify Jesus in fulfilling their tasks

II. Your Response to God's Choice

- A. As we move in God's will:
1. Whatever we ask the Father is done (John 15:16)
 2. All things work together for good (Rom. 8:28)
- B. Created in Christ Jesus for good works which God has before ordained (Eph. 2:10) – God has chosen you to fulfill a special task
- C. Five successive phases of your response (Rom. 12:1–6)
1. Present your body a living sacrifice (Rom. 12:1) on God's altar (Matt. 23:19)
 2. Thus, you are renewed in your mind.
 - a. You no longer think as the world thinks
 - b. You accept God's standards (Rom. 12:2)
 - c. You delight to do God's will (1 John 2:15–17)
 3. To your renewed mind God reveals His special purpose and task – God has given the measure of faith needed to fulfill that task (Rom. 12:3)
 4. You find your place and function in the Body of Christ (Rom. 12:4–5)
 5. You begin to exercise the gifts appropriate to your function (Rom. 12:6)

- D. As God's will and purpose are progressively revealed to you, you shape your whole conduct and life to fulfill God's purpose
 - 1. You exercise yourself (Acts 24:16)
 - 2. You discipline yourself (1 Cor. 9:24–27)

III. Pattern of an Athlete

- A. Negative: Renounce all that hinders the fulfillment of God's purpose (comp. Heb. 12:1–2)
- B. Positive: Cultivate all that helps the fulfillment of God's purpose
- C. The negative alone, without the positive, is barren and frustrating
- D. Discover that God has made full provision for all you need to fulfill His purpose (2 Pet. 1:3–4)
- E. In fulfilling God's purpose you manifest the nature of God's Son.