

ASK THE PASTOR

Is it possible for man to live holy in this present world?



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The Bible tells us in 1 Peter 1:15-16, “But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”

In Ephesians 5:27 the Bible says, “That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.” And again in Ephesians 1:4 saying, “According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.”

In 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, Paul says very strongly, “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.” Also in Titus 2:11-12, “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.”

So is it possible for man to live holy in this present world? As we have just read in Titus that it is the grace of God that brings us salvation, and also teaches us that we should live soberly, righteously, and godly.

Do I obtain this holiness by keeping a set of rules of “do’s and

don’ts”? If it were possible to be holy by keeping a set of rules, then the Pharisees would have been most holy for they had 613 rules that they lived by. They prayed, they fasted, they tithed, they attended every service, yet Jesus said they were hypocrites, for they had an outward form of holiness. But God looks to the heart.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, “ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, “Thou shalt not commit adultery; but I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.” Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, “Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment; but I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgement.”

Though we would never commit the act of adultery, if our heart is filled with lust for another woman, we have committed adultery. Though we would never kill another man, if we are filled with hatred and anger, we have committed murder.

What Jesus is telling us is that holiness is of the heart, not of appearance. It is God dwelling in us that makes us holy, and not the keeping of a set of rules.

When God told Moses to build the ark of the covenant, they went out and cut down trees to build the ark. They handled it, they hued it, they drilled it, they overlaid it

with gold, and they handled it with their hands; but when God moved in the ark, it became holy. It was holy not because of the wood or the gold, it was holy because God was on the inside of it.

When Moses saw the burning bush he was told, “take off your shoes for the ground you are standing on is holy ground.” If I had been Moses, I would probably have wondered, “why is this ground holy today because it was not holy yesterday?” But the reason it was holy today is because God was in the bush, and the bush was attached to the ground.

The reason we are holy is because God dwells on the inside of us, and his holiness is to shine through in our lives, in our actions,

in our attitude, in our speech, in the places we go, and the things we do. Our lives are to be a demonstration of who God is.

The Bible says in Titus 3:1-4, “Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, to speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, showing all meekness unto all men. For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared.

So our holiness is to be “holiness of heart,” perfect in love — for God is love.

*“The People You Know,
The People You Trust.”*



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