

Church of God, The Eternal

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Dear Brethren:

As called people of God we are admonished to work in newness of life without sin—TO BE HOLY. God is holy and He expects His children to be holy, as He is holy in all.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the church of God in Rome: "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?" (Romans 6:1–2) [*New King James Version* throughout.] Those who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death. Therefore, we were buried with Him through baptism into death that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

In verse 6 He said we are not to be slaves to sin, so here is where you find that it is a hard nut to crack. In verse 12: "Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts."

As we live in the time in which immorality has been given first priority in the world—be it in pictures, Internet, mobile phones, and so forth—the Apostle says: "And do not present [give out or use] your members [even our minds] as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and [offer the members of your body] your members as instruments of righteousness to God" (verse 13).

Being instruments of righteousness is to be right with God, keeping His laws. David says in Psalm 119:172: " . . . For all Your commandments are righteousness."

We have been set free from sin whereas we were formerly slaves. Sin took us captive and we were working for it. Now we have become slaves (captives) of righteousness. As we gave ourselves up to sin previously, we are now to give ourselves up for righteousness because we have been set free from sin.

What Is Holiness

Holiness is a state of being holy, living according to a religious or spiritual system. It is something that is dedicated, sanctified for special use, hallowed. When we talk about being holy, we are to turn to God and see which type of person He is.

Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are (John 17:11).

Jesus is holy, as the angel told His mother before He was born: "And the angel answered and said to her [Mary], 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God' " (Luke 1:35).

Yes, the called out ones God expects to be holy as He is holy in all His doings, character, and works. His name, that name He has bestowed on us, is a holy name.

"For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy is His name" (Luke 1:49). The law of God and His commandments are holy. His angels are holy (Matthew 25:31).

When Christ was taken up into the heavens, the place He entered into as a high priest is holy, which is not made with hands.

"For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself" (Hebrews 9:24). Everywhere, God expects His people to be as He is. In the temple all things were holy.

"Do you not know that those who minister the holy things eat of the things of the temple" (1 Corinthians 9:13).

The abode of God, New Jerusalem, will be the holy city where God will be found. God can use nothing that is not holy. "Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband" (Revelation 21:2).

God called His apostles and prophets holy people, then why not us? Some people might read and say that only prophets and apostles were holy so they might think that we need not be holy.

"[W]hich in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets" (Ephesians 3:5).

Yes, the called out ones—ecclesia of God—are to be a place where God can dwell, and God cannot dwell where it is not holy. This is they to whom God has given His Holy Spirit that they may grow and live a holy life in this present world.

"[T]hat He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish" (Ephesians 5:27).

"Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus" (Hebrews 3:1).

When we are called and made God's temple, we are to be holy temples where the glory of God is found. "[I]n whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord" (Ephesians 2:21).

Our calling is a holy calling and therefore let us maintain it as being holy. A holy calling must remain holy, the way God's Sabbath is a holy day. He instructed us to keep it holy the way He made it in the beginning.

[W]ho has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began (2 Timothy 1:9).

Jesus is intending to present us holy before His Father because being in His presence is holy. When Moses was keeping his uncle's sheep, God called him near the burning bush. When he was there, God told him to remove his shoes because where he was standing was a holy place. It was in the presence of God.

"[I]n the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight" (Colossians 1:22).

Our offerings should be holy offerings unto God. That is what He wants from us. We are not giving offerings for the sake of giving, but we must know first that what we give is holy unto the Lord, and that is when the blessing will follow. "The rest of the grain offering shall be Aaron's and his sons'. It is most holy of the offerings to the Lord made by fire" (Leviticus 2:3).

All of God's appointed times are holy as He said in His Bible. Jubilee year is a holy year (Leviticus 25:12). Tithes of the land were holy (Leviticus 27:30).

How do we view ourselves as the people of God? Do we yield holy fruits? Do we give holy offerings? We are God's temple and God's temple is holy.

"But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy; In fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple" (Psalm 5:7).

Anything that is involved or associated with the worship of God is holy, and that includes us, the church (Ephesians 5:27), the saints (Daniel 7:18), and the elect (Matthew 24:31). God has made us holy, He has set us apart, consecrated us and sanctified us.

Since God has made us holy, we must remember NOT to be "holier than thou," as I see in some of the splinter groups. We are to be humble and realize that we are not better than anybody else. God commands that we love our neighbors. We must appreciate God's calling us, but we must be humble and realize that He is the potter and we are the clay.

Holiness is the key to the presence of God. The Apostle Peter reminded us that we must be holy in all our conduct because God is holy.

"Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:13). Peter said we are to gird up the loins of our minds. The Apostle Paul stated this another way in 2 Corinthians 10:5.

Peter goes on to say that we are as children of the Eternal. ". . . as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy' " (1 Peter 1:14–16).

What Do We Do to Be Holy?


Leviticus 11:44 says, "For I am the Lord your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy. Neither shall you defile yourselves with any creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Keeping God's commandments produces holy conduct.

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say to them: 'You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy' " (Leviticus 19:1–2).

Brethren, let us through God's Holy Spirit strive to be holy to enter into the presence of God in His Kingdom.

Yours in His love and respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Isaya Owak', enclosed within a large, loopy oval stroke.

Isaya Owak