

Walking in Holiness

As we study our Hebrew roots, and observe the transformation that is taking place in the body of Yeshua, one thing is becoming very clear – God is in the midst of a process of restoration! Restoring His word, His truth, the gifts, the ministries, and the empowering of the Holy Spirit. We rejoice in all that Yahweh has accomplished, but that restoration is not yet complete! The church today still lacks the power and life of the early church!

I believe that a part of that restoration is for the church to grasp the Hebrew mindset of living in covenant with Yahweh and our brothers and sisters in Yeshua. Another portion is His concept of walking in holiness.

Nikki Cruz – "We stink more of the world than we stink of sack cloth and ashes. A lot of contemporary churches today would feel more at home in a movie house rather than in a house of prayer, more afraid of holy living than of sinning, know more about money than magnifying Christ in our bodies. It is so compromised that holiness and living a sin-free life is heresy to the modern church. The modern church is, quite simply, just the world with a Christian T-shirt on!"

As one looks at the life and power of the early church, it's important to see that the early church didn't just "HAPPEN!," it wasn't an accident of history. It did not naturally evolve. It was PLANNED!

The church had been part of God's plan since creation. For two thousand years, God worked to set the stage for it's appearance. As the time for the church's birth drew near, Jesus announced to His followers, "I will build My church! (Mt 16:18)

Ephesians chapter three describes the church as a mystery that had been hidden since the foundation of the world! The mystery of the church was this: God had a plan to make Gentiles FELLOW-HEIRS, together with the Jews, enabling them to experience all the blessings of Israel's Messiah!

Throughout the Old Testament era, God had worked through His chosen people, the Jews. If you were a Gentile and wanted to know the true God, you had to become a Jew! God had bound Himself to the Jews by eternal covenant, and His covenant blessings were the rightful inheritance of every believing Jew.

But all along God had a secret plan! His plan was, through the church, to graft believing Gentiles into His covenant so they also could receive His blessings!

Ephesians 2:12-13 describes it this way:

"Remember that you Gentiles... were separate from Messiah, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world..."

"But NOW in Messiah Jesus, you [Gentiles] who were far away have been brought near through the blood of Messiah."

"His purpose was to create ONE NEW MAN out of two [Jews and Gentiles]. Consequently, we [believing Gentiles], through the blood of Messiah, are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people [believing Jews] and members of God's household!"

That's how God views the church! The church is God's way of including the Gentiles in the blessings of Israel's covenant!

God, through Jesus, has grafted us, wild olive branches, into the root of the Jewish olive tree, among the "natural" branches – thereby making us an integral part of that family.

But with those blessings comes responsibility, the responsibility of living in covenant with God, and walking in holiness.

Throughout history many have puzzled over why God chose the Jews. To understand that we need to see that through embracing paganism, mankind has lost any understanding of spiritual reality. Romans chapter one (1:21) describes the human race this way: “their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.”

Men and women had become so perverted in their thinking they no longer knew who the true God was or how to relate to Him. In the ancient world, the vilest of sins were turned into acts of pagan worship! Men had so embraced idolatry that they had lost even the ability to comprehend the truth of God when they heard it!

Pagans have lost the ability to understand the things of God. When you mention “God” to a pagan, his first response will either be, “There is no God,” or “Which god?” His picture of god is not an almighty, all-powerful God.

(Pagan, - A heathen; a Gentile; an idolater; one who worships false gods.)

Even when you are able to communicate the gospel and see them saved, there will be a long process of learning before they understand the foundational truths of Christianity. That’s exactly the problem the earliest missionaries faced as they tried to communicate God’s truth into a pagan world.

The early apostles discovered that it was difficult for pagans to understand the gospel. When God’s revelation was communicated to people with a pagan mindset, the result was often confusion. They didn’t have any categories to understand what God was saying.

As you read the New Covenant Scriptures, you find whenever the gospel penetrated into the pagan world, such misunderstandings of the message were common.

Even “converted” pagans had a hard time understanding the truth of God! The church in Corinth had no concept of righteousness. In the temples of Corinth, prostitution and drunken orgies were acts of worship. The new converts at Corinth had no idea such things would be abhorrent to God! Paul had to write a letter of correction to them because some of the converts were living in immorality and getting drunk at the Lord’s Supper!

Converts from paganism didn’t understand that it was wrong for a Christian to participate in idolatrous feasts. In the first century, pagan temples also served as restaurants and butcher shops. Animals were sacrificed to the pagan gods, and then butchered and the meat sold or served at a pagan feast. Such feasts had been a standard part of their culture. Gentile Christians didn’t think anything of it.

Holiness was one of the hardest concepts for Gentiles to grasp. The Gentile world didn’t have a concept of holiness. The closest thing pagans had to the concept of holiness was asceticism. Greek asceticism taught that everything physical is evil and everything spiritual is good. To be “good” meant to divorce yourself from the physical world and its pleasures. This affected the Gentile church in many ways.

Asceticism affected worship! Biblical worship was very Jewish. It involved much dancing and celebration. There was a great deal of physical expression: lifting hands, clapping hands, bowing down, etc. the human body was viewed as an instrument to express praise to God.

As Christianity penetrated the Greek world, there was an increasing tension with these expressions of worship. If the physical world is evil, how can physical expressions of praise be acceptable to God?

These attitudes still affect much of the church today. Have you ever wondered why so many Christians can read passages exhorting us to dance to the Lord, clap our hands to the Lord, raise our hands in praise, etc... and yet never feel comfortable to actually do what these passages instruct? It's because we still filter God's instructions on praise through a pagan mindset.

Most Christians would be shocked how much of our accepted thinking is really a paganized distortion of biblical truth.

Robert Heidler asks in "The Messianic Church Arising," "Why have we accepted ideas that are contrary to the Bible? It's because God's revelation has been filtered through a pagan mindset." He goes on to say, "I'm convinced that our walk with God is hindered in ways we cannot even imagine because our pagan Gentile mindset blinds us to much of God's revelation."

God's solution to this problem of the pagan mind having such a difficult time of understanding His truth was to raise up a priestly nation, specially trained to understand and communicate the truth of God. His plan was to choose a people and prepare them, like an athlete in training, putting them through difficult situations and placing stringent requirements on them to instill in them the ways of God. They would be equipped to serve as lights to the nations, to communicate the things of God to the rest of mankind.

That's why God created the Jewish people. He took the offspring of Abraham and for 2000 years He shaped their culture and understanding to bring them into line with His truth.

- He gave them a revelation of His nature – there is only one God, that He is a jealous God, and that He will not share His glory with pagan idols.
- He revealed that He is a holy God, a loving God, and a righteous God.
- He gave them a prophetic view of history – they learned where history started, where its headed and what Messiah would come and do.
- Through His Torah, He shaped the daily lives of the people – He taught them about holiness:
holy days
holy people
and holy places
He taught them about righteousness and repentance
He divided their world into clean and unclean – to teach them the defilement of sin, and what it means to be set apart to God.
He taught them about blood covenant
- God instilled in them a biblical cycle of life – The Sabbaths and feasts formed a background against which life was played out, teaching and reminding them each year of the central principles of life with God.
- God gave them practical wisdom for success – He taught them how to prosper – to demonstrate to the world the blessing of God's people.
- Through repeated chastening and correction, He hammered into their minds what is required of those who would walk with God.

Then after 2000 years of preparation, Messiah came. Because of the foundation God had built into the Jewish people, they knew who He was and what He would accomplish.

When John the Baptist introduced Jesus, he didn't have to spend three hours describing who Jesus was and what He came to do. He just said, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" They knew what he meant! They knew what a sacrificial lamb was, and what Messiah would do. (Interesting, most of the Jews who rejected Jesus were those who had turned from their own Jewish roots and become enamored with pagan Greek philosophy!)

God called the Jewish people to be a nation of priests and a light to the Gentile nations. (Ex 19:6; Isa 60:3, 61:6; Zech 8:23)

For the first three centuries of its existence, the church was a pretty Jewish place. It's worship followed Jewish patterns. Its organizational structure was loosely patterned after the synagogue. It observed the feasts of Israel (Yahweh) and many other elements of biblical Judaism. It held fast to the root and was richly nourished.

Beginning with Constantine, approximately 312 A.D. or C.E., and through the dark ages, most of the Jewish elements of our faith were destroyed by an anti-Semitic church leadership. The church today suffers because those things have been lost.

I stated earlier that through His Torah, Yahweh shaped the daily lives of the Jewish people. He taught them about holiness... Over the years, Christians have developed a variety of strange ideas about holiness. By the middle ages, if you wanted to be holy, you took a vow of poverty, moved into a monastery, and literally tortured yourself.

A more contemporary idea was that holiness meant being DIFFERENT from the world. By the 1940's and 50's, Christians who wanted to be holy tried to *look* different. They walked around in hair and clothing styles that were at least ten years out of date and thought that made them holy.

By the 60's, some Christians thought they needed to *sound* different. The idea of having a guitar in church was unheard of. It was a worldly instrument, often played by unbelievers. To be holy meant worshipping with an organ or piano.

Then we began to make lists of "worldly" activities to avoid – No movies, roller-skating, dancing, make-up, or card playing either. The idea was that if you avoided the activities of the world that made you HOLY.

Fortunately, the idea that "being different" makes you holy has gone out of style. Christians today tend to think holiness means being "good." They think if they live a life that is righteous and moral, they will have achieved holiness, but that also misses the mark.

If we simply look at the English definition of holy, it is very easy to see where we come up with the concept of holiness being good, moral.

Webster says:

"Properly, whole, entire or perfect, in a moral sense. Hence, pure in heart, temper or dispositions; free from sin and sinful affections. Applied to the Supreme Being, holy signifies perfectly pure, immaculate and complete in moral character; and man is more or less holy, as his heart is more or less sanctified, or purified from evil dispositions. We call a man holy, when his heart is conformed in some degree to the image of God, and his life is regulated by the divine precepts. Hence, holy is used as nearly synonymous with good, pious, godly."

But, if we look at the Hebrew, and Greek definitions and usage of the word, we find an entirely different concept. In Hebrew we find:

qâdash H6942 (*kaw-dash'*)

A primitive root; to be (causatively *make, pronounce or observe as*) **clean** (ceremonially or morally):

A verb meaning to be set apart, to be holy, to show oneself holy, to be treated as holy, to consecrate, to treat as holy, to dedicate, to be made holy, to declare holy or consecrated, to behave, to act holy, to dedicate oneself. The verb, in the simple stem, declares the act of setting apart, being holy (i.e., withdrawing someone or something from profane or ordinary use).

And from the Greek

hagios G40 (*hag'-ee-os*)

Sacred, holy, set apart, sanctified, consecrated. Its fundamental idea is separation, consecration, devotion to the service of Deity, sharing in God's purity and abstaining from earth's defilement.

Hagios' stands in contrast with Koinos (*koy-nos'*), defiled or common.

So we find the Greek and Hebrew meanings to be hallowed; consecrated or set apart to a sacred use, or to the service or worship of God; a sense frequent in Scripture; as the holy Sabbath; holy oil; holy vessels; a holy nation; the holy temple; a holy priesthood.

The Jews were designated by God as a HOLY nation!

In Leviticus 20:26 God commanded the Jews:

“And you shall be holy to Me. For I, Jehovah, am holy, and have severed you from the nations, so that you should be Mine.

“You are to be HOLY... because I, the LORD, am holy.”

In Exodus 19:4-6 we see:

You have seen what I did... and *how* I... brought you unto myself... therefore, if you will obey my voice, and keep my covenant, then you shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth *is* mine. And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.

God has separated the Jewish people and called them a holy nation, a peculiar treasure – God's private possession.

So we see that living a good life, while important, is *not* what makes you holy. Stop and think of some of the things God calls “holy.” God called the burning bush “*holy*.” That does not mean the burning bush *sinned less* than the other bushes! God called Sinai His “holy” mountain. But Sinai did not become HOLY by being more MORAL than other mountains!

Holiness is not a matter of being good or moral!

We see the proof of that statement in the definition of both the Hebrew *kaw-dash'*, and in the Greek word Hagios, “the opposite of holy is common or profane” or, if you will, “*ordinary*.”

Like many Christians, I had always used “holy” as a synonym for “righteous.” To live a “holy life,” I had assumed, meant that you lived a good moral life, avoiding sin as much as possible.

But even a brief study of the Greek and Hebrew words for “holiness” as they are used in the Bible, we can determine that righteousness is not what is meant.

Holiness doesn't mean “free from sin.” Holiness means “set apart from the ordinary” or “elevated above the norm.” The best one-word definition of “holy” is the word “*special!*” To treat something as holy is to honor it as special!

Genesis 2:3 was the first time that God called something holy. That something was the seventh day. And God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it – the word sanctified here is *kaw-dash'* – He set it apart, made it holy.

Calling the seventh day holy did not mean that days one through six were worldly, bad, or sinful! The first six days were good days. In fact in Genesis 1:31, God said they were VERY GOOD.

But they were not holy. They were just ordinary days. God set the seventh day apart from the rest and said, “This day is SPECIAL.”

In Lev 10, - Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, and put incense on it, and offered strange fire before Jehovah, which He had not commanded them. And there went out fire from Jehovah and devoured them, and they died before Jehovah. (vs. 1-2) (MKJV)

So what does this “strange fire²¹¹⁴” mean? (Strongs) “The basic meaning of this word is to turn aside (particularly for lodging); therefore, it refers to being *a foreigner, strange, profane*; specifically (active participle) to *commit adultery*:”

Vs 3 - Then Moses said to Aaron, *It is that which Jehovah spoke, saying, I will be sanctified in them that come near me, and before all the people I will be glorified. And Aaron held his peace.* (MKJV)

The word translated here as sanctified is *Kaw-dash*’.

(AMP) Moses said to Aaron, This is what the Lord meant when He said, I [*and My will, not their own*] will be acknowledged as hallowed by those who come near Me, and before all the people I will be honored.

God’s stated reason for this punishment here is the preservation of His holiness.

The balance of the chapter finds God giving Aaron instructions for serving in the Tabernacle. He warned Aaron to be careful to “distinguish between the HOLY and the COMMON.” God was saying, “Don’t take what is SPECIAL and treat it as ORDINARY!”

Let’s look at another Biblical example –Exodus 28:1-3, God commanded:

1. Take Aaron and his six sons for the priesthood – thereby setting them apart from the rest of the children of Israel – special.
2. Make holy ⁶⁹⁴⁴ (ko-desh) garments for Aaron (AMP) [appointed official dress set apart for special holy services].
3. They may make Aaron’s garments to consecrate ⁶⁹⁴² (kaw-dash) him – set him apart from the other priests on those special occasions.

But what if... What if Aaron had brought his laundry to the tabernacle, washed it in the laver, and hung it upon the Ark of the Covenant to dry, would he not have been violating the holiness of the tabernacle? He would have been taking some very special things and treating them as ordinary!

Being holy is being “set apart from the ordinary.” If something is “holy,” it is designated for special purposes and deserving of special treatment. To treat something as HOLY means that you treat it with HONOR.

How many of you are like my wife and me, we own two sets of dishes, a set of “good china” and a set of “everyday” dishes? We like our everyday dishes, they’re pretty and very serviceable, but we use them everyday. This is not the first set of everyday dishes we have had, because of the constant use, and at times abuse, they become chipped and cracked and must be replaced.

But, our good china is beautiful and somewhat elegant. It is reserved for special occasions. When we use it, we treat it with great care and always put it back in a special cabinet. It is still as beautiful today as the day we got it.

Our everyday dishes are nice, but they are COMMON. Our good china is SPECIAL. If I took a piece of our good china and set it down on the floor to hold food for the dog, my wife would be

very upset! I would be taking something special and treating it as ordinary! I would be failing to show those special dishes the HONOR they deserved!

It is not so different than Nadab and Abihu's strange fire, or the example of Aaron and his laundry.

We know that the temple of God was His sanctuary, His holy place; yet in Ezekiel chapters 8-11, we see God removing His presence from it because Israel had set up an altar to sacrifice to Baal, and were worshipping all kinds of beetles, reptiles and beasts within the house of Israel.

We also have another warning in Deuteronomy 23:14 that brings this a little closer to home:

“For Jehovah your God walks in the middle of your camp, to deliver you and to give up your enemies before you. Therefore your camp shall be holy, so that He may see no unclean thing in you and turn away from you.”

For what? – Read vs. 12-14 for context.

“You shall have a place also outside the camp to which you shall go [*as a comfort station*]; And you shall have a paddle or shovel among your weapons, and when you sit down outside [*to relieve yourself*], you shall dig a hole with it and turn back and cover up what has come from you. For the Lord your God walks in the midst of your camp to deliver you and to give up your enemies before you. Therefore shall your camp be holy, that He may see nothing indecent among you and turn away from you.” (Deuteronomy 23:12-14 AMP)

It's not the act of relieving oneself that defiles you, – but the camp is holy – we are told to keep what is ordinary outside the holy place – don't treat what is holy as ordinary!

Walking in holiness is not about being good or different; it's about showing HONOR! It's about treating what is SPECIAL in a special way!

Holiness is very important to God. If we fail to walk in holiness, we will cause His presence to withdraw!

Holiness is the secret to walking in God's presence and power!

In His Word, God has designated certain things as holy. He asks us to treat these things in a special way. **When we honor what is holy, we walk in holiness and His presence abides with us.** Holiness is a key to a Supernatural life!

When God designated these things as HOLY, God connected them with covenant principles. If we HONOR what God calls holy, we link into those covenant principles and are brought into a supernatural dimension of life.

What are some of the things the Bible calls holy?

- Apostles and Prophets
- God's Word
- His Name
- Israel
- Marriage
- Other Christians (believers)
- Places Of Worship
- Spiritual Leaders
- The Sabbath
- The Tithe
- Your Body

Let's take a closer look at several examples...

Holy Money. God has designated a tithe (1/10th) of your income as holy. Lev. 27:30-32 tells us,

And all the tithe of the land, of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is Jehovah's. *It is* holy to Jehovah. And if a man will at all redeem anything of his tithes, he shall add to it the fifth *part* of it. And all the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, all that passes under the rod, a tenth shall be holy to Jehovah (Leviticus 27:30-32 MKJV)

“A tithe [tenth] of everything belongs to the LORD; it is HOLY to the LORD.”

Malachi 3 tells us HOW to honor the tithe as holy.

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it*. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. (Malachi 3:10-11 KJV)

We honor it as holy when we bring the whole tithe into the storehouse...

God then connected the tithe to a covenant promise. He said, if you will treat the tithe as holy, "...I will throw open the windows of heaven and pour out so much blessing you will not have room enough for it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes..."

Now when God designates the tithe as holy, we have a choice: We can honor the tithe as holy (treat it as special), or we can chose not to honor it! We can treat it like the rest of our income.

The choice is ours. You will not go to hell for not tithing! But *honoring* the tithe as holy will set you apart from the world in your finances.

Honoring the tithe allows you to tap into covenant principles and opens a door to supernatural provision.

Holy Time. God designates one-seventh of your *time* as holy.

Genesis 2:3 tells us,

“And God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it” (Genesis 2:3 MKJV)

Made it HOLY (qâdash; *kaw-dash*)'

In the 10 commandments, God instructs, “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it HOLY.” (Ex. 20:8-11)

Observing a Sabbath is not a requirement for salvation! But honoring the Sabbath links you into a covenant principle of blessing. God promises: “If you call the Sabbath a delight... and *honor* it... you will find your joy in the LORD, and I will cause you to ride on the heights of the land and feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob” (Is. 58:13-14)

(Jewish Publication Society Bible) “If thou turn away thy foot because of the Sabbath, from pursuing thy business on My holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, and the holy of the LORD honourable; and shalt honour it, not doing thy wonted ways, nor pursuing thy business, nor speaking thereof...”

Holy Places. The burning bush was holy. Mt. Sinai was holy. The tabernacle and the temple were holy. Places of worship are holy.

What made them holy?

The manifest presence of the Lord.

Honoring a holy place links us into God's covenant blessing. In the book of Haggai, we learn that the people of Judah had neglected work on the temple to build their own houses. The result was that God's provision was withheld. They never had enough!

Solomon, on the other hand, showed great honor to God's temple! He depleted his resources to build it. The result was that he experienced overflowing abundance for the rest of his days.

When we honor what is holy, we tap into blessing!

Holy People. God designates many kinds of people as holy.

Apostles & prophets are holy (Eph. 3:5).

The Jewish people are holy (Dt 7:6; 14:2).

Your brothers and sisters in the Lord are holy (Col 3:12; 1 Thes 5:27; Heb 3:1).

Your husband, wife, parents & children are holy unto you (Lv 21:7; 1 Pet 3:5; 1 Cor 7:14).

The Bible gives instructions on how to honor each one of these in an appropriate way. It also gives a promise: If you honor those God calls holy, you will receive God's blessing!

As an example, 1 Kings 17:8-16, the story of Elijah and the widow gives us some insight into honoring people.

Yahweh had informed Ahab, through Elijah, that there would be drought throughout the land until further notice because of his, Ahab's, leading the people into Baal worship.

Elijah had spent a period being fed by the ravens at the brook Cherith, until it dried up. Then Yahweh sent him to Zarephath, in Lebanon, the area that Jezebel had come from – a hotbed of Baal worship, and told him that a widow there would provide for him. Elijah arrived to find her gathering sticks to prepare a meal. She was at the end of her resources! She had just enough meal and oil to make one last meal for herself and her son, and then she would starve!

In the midst of that tragic situation, Elijah makes an incredible demand: He tells the widow, "Feed me first! Then you and your son can eat!" How could Elijah go up to a starving woman and ask her to feed him before she feeds herself and her son?

"To discover whether it was to her that the Lord had sent him, he asked her for something to drink and for a morsel of bread to eat; whereupon she assured him, with an oath by Jehovah, that she had nothing baked, but only a handful of meal and a little oil in the pitcher, and that she was just gathering wood to dress this remnant for herself and her son, that they might eat it, and then die. From this statement of the widow it is evident, on the one hand, that the drought and famine had spread across the Phoenician frontier, on the other hand, the widow showed by the oath, "as Jehovah thy God liveth," that she was a worshipper of the true God, who spoke of *Jehovah* as his God, because she recognised the prophet as an Israelite." (Keil & Delitzsch commentary)

Elijah understood the things of God. He knew that if the widow would honor a prophet, she would receive a prophet's reward" (Mt. 10:41) he was allowing the woman an opportunity to enter into the miraculous!

As the woman chose to honor God's prophet, God began to miraculously multiply her resources!

A Picture of Holiness

The Internet gives us a good picture of how holiness operates.

Are you familiar with a Hyperlink? – Special text, usually underlined and in a different color from the rest of the paragraph.

What is special about it? – Special because it's linked to things you can't see.

You can click your mouse on other words in the paragraph and nothing happens, but click on the hyperlink and whole new pages open up to you.

That's a picture of how holiness operates.

You can *honor* many things in life:

A sports team

A movie star

A Rock group

Your hobby

An author

A brand of computer

Or... what God's calls **holy**

When you show honor to most things, you receive no benefit! But when you chose to honor what is holy, new realms of **blessing** open up to you! Honoring the holy sets us apart from the world and lifts us up into a supernatural realm where we tap into the covenantal blessings of God.

Where does holiness come from?

Stop to think about the things God calls holy. What made the burning bush holy? What made Mount Sinai holy? What made the "most holy place" holy?

The answer is: *The Presence of God!*

Now think about this: when you trusted in Jesus, God's holy spirit came to live inside you. God's presence is in *you* right now. That means **YOU** are holy! You are a saint, a **HOLY ONE**.

You are holy right now. You are holy no matter what you do. Remember, holiness is not sinlessness!

Most Christians confuse holiness with righteousness. Righteousness is being **CLEAN**. It means you have removed the defilement of sin from your life. God wants us to walk in righteousness.

But holiness is in a different dimension. Holiness is being **SPECIAL**. Because you have trusted in Jesus, you are holy, even when you are sinning! In 1 Corinthians, Paul wrote to the church at Corinth to correct their many problems. The problems in the Corinthian church included immorality, drunkenness (at the Lord's Supper!), factions, etc., in writing concerning their sin, however, the very first thing Paul does is... well, let's read it -

1 Corinthians 1:2

"To the church of God which is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called out (KJ –called out to be saints (hagios)) with all those in every place who call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours." (MKJV)

...He reminded the Corinthians that they are **HOLY!**

You **ARE** holy! God wants you to begin walking in holiness!

Earlier I used the illustration of the good china. Our good china is *special*. Sometimes when we finish eating a big meal our good china is not very pretty! It's covered with bits of food! It's dirty. It needs to be cleaned. But it's still special. It's still our good china.

Our everyday dishes are ordinary. We keep our everyday dishes clean, but they are still ordinary. That's the difference between holiness and righteousness.

Righteousness is being clean.

Holiness is being special.

Our good china is special whether it is clean or not. Because our good china is special, we treat it carefully, even when it's dirty. We're careful to wash it, to restore it to its beauty.

You are God's "good china!" you are special to Him, even when you are not walking in a way that pleases Him.

Walking in Holiness

Walking in holiness begins by knowing that God has made you holy:

- Rom 1:7 – You are a saint (“holy one”)
- 1 Cor 3:3 – You are not a mere human
- Rom 8:9 – You are indwelt by God’s Spirit
- 2 Pet 1:4 – You are a partaker of God’s nature
- Rom 8:1 – The power of resurrection is in you
- Jer 29:11 – You have a purpose and a destiny
- 1 Cor 12 – You have been given supernatural abilities and are called to live as a supernatural being!

As God’s HOLY man or woman you can begin to WALK in the realm of holiness! You can learn to show HONOR! You learn to treat as special what God calls Holy (including yourself)! As you HONOR what is HOLY, you enter the supernatural favor and blessing reserved for God’s Holy People.

How do I walk in Holiness?

Holiness is all about showing honor. Some Christians love to gossip and criticize. They dishonor one another and their spiritual leaders. They wonder why they don’t walk in God’s blessing and power!

Walking in holiness means showing honor where honor is due. It means showing honor to your parents because they were God’s chosen instruments to bring you into the world. It means honoring your spouse as your covenant partner. It means showing respect to those God has established as your spiritual leaders.

Walking in holiness means showing honor to God’s name. It means treating the Sabbath as a “set apart” day. It means treating other Christians as special, just because they know Jesus! It means showing honor to the Jews as God’s chosen people.

As you walk in HOLINESS, showing honor where it is due, God’s PRESENCE invades your life and His BLESSING is released.

Holiness is not about legalism, being different, or being good! Holiness is all about showing honor! Honor has not had a big place in our Christian vocabulary. But God wants us to begin to think in terms of showing honor!

It’s important to honor the people and things God has designated as holy. Ask God to show you how to honor what is holy in your life.

As we walk in holiness, we are enabled to experience more and more of God’s power and blessing!

The basis for this teaching came from “The Messianic Church Arising” written by Robert Heidler, which can be ordered from *Glory of Zion International Ministries*, PO Box 1601, Denton, Tx 76202, or online at www.glory-of-zion.org, or by calling Glory of Zion toll free at 1-800-965-1099.