

## PURSUING HOLINESS - BECOMING CHRISTLIKE

### Talk One - Handout

Why should we pursue holiness? \_\_\_\_\_

1 Thessalonians 4:3 "It is God's will that you should be sanctified."

Leviticus 20:26 "You are to **be holy** to me because I, the LORD, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own."

What does "pursuing" mean? \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 12:14 "Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord."

Philippians 3:12-14 "Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. <sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

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#### 1) God's grace is bigger than our sin.

1 Peter 2:24 "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."

Matthew 5:48 "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect".

James 2:10 "For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it".

Romans 5:1-2 "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God."

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**2) It matters because sin is serious.**

Which words does God use to describe sin? \_\_\_\_\_

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Leviticus 16:21 “He is to lay both hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the wickedness and rebellion of the Israelites—all their sins—and put them on the goat’s head. He shall send the goat away into the wilderness in the care of someone appointed for the task.”

2 Samuel 12:9-10 “Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. <sup>10</sup>Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.’”

1 Kings 13:21 “He cried out to the man of God who had come from Judah, “This is what the LORD says: ‘You have defied the word of the LORD and have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you.’”

1 John 1:8 “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.”

Ephesians 4:30 “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption”.

1 Timothy 1:15-16 “Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. <sup>16</sup>But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.”

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**3) The Gospel is for sinners.**

In your own words, how would you describe the Gospel?

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What are some of the truths we need to remind ourselves when we go back to the Gospel?

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Romans 8:1 “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus”.

Romans 8:11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of<sup>[e]</sup> his Spirit who lives in you.

Romans 8:16-17 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. <sup>17</sup> Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Romans 8:38-39 Nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus: <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,<sup>[k]</sup> neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

See also Romans 3:19-26

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**Recommended books on the topic of holiness:**

The Discipline of Grace by Jerry Bridges

Holiness by J. C. Ryle

The Hole in Our Holiness by Kevin DeYoung

The Pursuit of Holiness by Jerry Bridges