

A Changed Goal - A Changed Relationship

A Changed Goal

The concept that drives continued progression is God's call to holiness. And this concept is really the foundation for discipleship.

Romans 6:17-19

David Bernard's Essentials of Holiness explains that holiness is (1) separation from sin and the world system and (2) dedication to God and His will.

O.T. References to holiness:

Holiness is recorded as being necessary in worship (*1 Chronicles 16:29, Psalms 29:2*).

God referenced His Holiness as motivation for the Israelites to follow His instructions and directions (*Leviticus 11:45, Leviticus 19:1-2*).

Leviticus 20:7-8 Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I *am* the Lord your God. ⁸And you shall keep My statutes, and perform them: I *am* the Lord who sanctifies you.

N.T. References to holiness:

Ephesians 5:25-27

- As with the Israelites, God continues to desire holiness from his N.T. church.

1 Peter 1:13-16

- Here Peter actually references the same O.T. passage "Be holy, for I am holy" making a direct connection for the church today.

2 Corinthians 7:1

- "flesh & spirit": again, our faith progression is both internal and external
- "perfecting" holiness: also, as renewing our minds is a process, so changing our flesh and spirit is a process.

Hebrews 12:14-15

Holiness, or to be holy as God is holy, is the Christian's changed goal. Holiness is the reason for our sanctification. It is the reason that we pursue ongoing progress.

Disciples continually separate themselves from sin and dedicate themselves to God's will in pursuit of His holiness.

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Galatians 5:16-25

- Now we can live and walk in the Spirit!

In the O.T. God provided His statutes to teach people to become more like Him. Statutes directed sanctification toward holiness. To be a follower of God, humans could only depend on their own willpower, their own determination.

In the N.T., because of the death, burial, & resurrection of Jesus Christ, our relationship with God has changed. The Lord still wants us to be holy, to be like Him, but now He has provided us with His own power (The Holy Spirit) to assist us in the effort, to empower us for the change.