

Without Holiness...

(Hebrews 12:14)

- Introduction:
1. Ills. of "In His Steps" by Charles Sheldon, 1896 (has sold 30 million copies).
 2. How would your life change if, for the next week, you accepted a "holiness challenge?"
 3. If our lives would be different, then we have work to do with respect to holiness.
 4. As we talk about holiness today, let me ask you to consider this question, "Is the old morality of the world holier than the new morality of the church?"

I. The Need For Holiness

- A. (Isaiah 65:2-5) Holiness is more than something that is abused.
- B. (1 Peter 1 15-16) We are commanded to be holy.
- C. (Ephesians 5:27) The church is to be holy.
- D. (Hebrews 12:14) Heaven hangs in the balance.

II. The Demands of Holiness

- A. Holiness involves
 1. Separation (Exodus 19:6; 1 Peter 2:9).
 2. Purity.
 - a. Mind (Matthew 5:8).
 - b. Body (1 Thessalonians 4:4).
 - c. Speech (James 1:19).
- B. Holiness therefore, is a separation of our thoughts, actions, and speech to the glory of God.

III. The Challenge of Holiness

- A. Do we malign holiness when we see it lived out (Matthew 5:10-12)?
- B. How much effort do we expend in trying to be holy (Mark 12:30)?
- C. To realize and recognize what holiness is and isn't (Romans 12:1-2).
 1. Is the old morality of the world holier than the new morality of the church?"
 2. The movie is the feeder of lust, a school of crime, the betrayer of innocence. It glorifies sexual impurity as love, pictures murder as entertainment, exalts nakedness and indecency as beauty. It shows drunkenness, divorce, reveling, gambling, adultery and fornication as proper and legitimate. It debauches the minds of children inflames lust in youth, hardens the hearts of the wicked. A trap for souls, a mocker of God" (The American Motion Picture Research Council, 1944).
 - a. Some who profess to wear the name of Jesus laugh at the profane; idolize the godless; tolerate the blasphemous; find entertainment from the obscene; listen to the vulgar; and refuse to turn our heads from the indecent and still have the nerve to claim to be holy children of God.

- Conclusion:
1. I wish to accomplish two things with this lesson.
 - a. I wish to remind you that without holiness, no one will see the Lord.
 - b. I wish to call you to give diligence to holiness.
 2. Heaven hangs in the balance.