

“A Serious Call to a Holy Life”

2 Cor. 6.14-7.1

Kelly Kinder 8/25/19



“Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.” (2 Cor. 7.1)

Paul calls every believer to a life that reflects the distinctive and disturbing character of Christ.

The Believer’s Provision for Personal Holiness

“Since we have these promises, beloved...” (7.1a)

- The provision for holiness is _____ (2 Cor. 1.20).
- The promises of God are like _____ that open up the very _____ of Christ to us.

The Believer’s Progress in Personal Holiness

...let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit” (7.1b)

The Holy Spirit will graciously point these things out to us, not to make us feel guilty, but to _____ us to Christ’s _____.

The Believer’s Perfection of Personal Holiness

“bringing holiness to completion ...” (7.1c)

At its root, sanctification is a miracle of God, an ongoing process of _____ sin of its pleasure and allurements, and of deepening our _____ in holiness and obedience.

The Believer’s Persuasion to Personal Holiness

“...in the fear of God.” (7.1d)

- This holy fear is absolutely _____ for us (Heb. 12.7-11).
- This holy fear is practically _____ to us (Prov. 9.10).

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Fill-ins:

- Christ in you, keys, nature, conform, character, emptying, delight, necessary, helpful

Questions for Discussion:

1. When people hear the word “holy”, what thoughts typically come to mind?
2. Is it possible to appear holy outwardly and yet fail to be holy? How so?
3. What is God’s provision for the believer’s holiness?
4. Read 1 Peter 1.15-17. Why does God call us to holiness? How does the fear of the Lord motivate us to that end?
5. What happens in a culture when believers lose the fear of the Lord and fail to emulate God’s holy character?
6. How does God discipline believers toward holiness? How does this reflect his extravagant love for us?

Spurgeon once warned, *“Notice very carefully that sin has a hardening power over the heart. How does that come about? Partly through our familiarity with sin. We may look at hateful sin till we love it. Familiarity with sin makes the conscience dull, and at length deadens sensibility. Security in wrongdoing leads also to this kind of hardening. A man has been dishonest; he is found out, and he suffers for it. I could almost thank God, for now he may cease from his evil course. But one of the greatest curses that can happen to a man is for him to do wrong with impunity. He will do it again, and again, and again, and he will proceed from bad to worse.”*

7. What adjustments might the body of Christ make to recapture a vision for holiness? What adjustments do you need to make to perfect holiness in your own life?