

November 4th, 2018

1 - VIDEO: HOLINESS BUMPER

2 – TITLE SLIDE

WELCOME

Good Morning! Welcome to Fox Valley Christian Church!

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR – HOSPITALITY CHALLENGE

Currently our totals are:

- Meals
- Friends
- Family
- Church
- Coworkers
- Neighbors

THE REAL GOD SERIES

I'll never forget this time I was in High School at a conference. It was ICTC. Illinois Christian Teen Convention. I am not sure that is even a thing anymore.

I was there, and the speaker was fun, and he was cool, and he was talking about God. Then he began to pray, and he said, "What's up God." It was awesome. As a High School student, I was so taken a back that someone felt that comfortable talking to God.

God was his friend, he was his pal, he was his buddy. He didn't have to formally approach God. He could just be friends with God. This was transformational and so new and fresh at the time.

Imagine for a moment that you get to go back in time and see the children of Israel come through the Red Sea. This is awesome and mind boggling. You get to talk to teenagers and older people about the terror of watching all those plagues and the frogs and the Nile and all these acts of God after literally 400 years.

Then in Exodus 19 and 20, after two months of being in the wilderness ... God wants to introduce Himself to the Israelites. He has been speaking to Moses, but He wants to speak to all of Israel. So that they can ALL hear His voice.

Imagine this moment. You see two million people. Then you see this smoke billow, and then fire, and then the ground is shaking, there is an earthquake. And you watch people fall on their face before God and hear this thundering voice.

Afterwards you are talking to the Israelites. You said to them, "This God has just introduced Himself to His people. What is He like?" I'm guessing it would not be something like, "Oh, He's the Man upstairs. He's my Homeboy. We're buddies."

See ... **In our desire to move away from dead ritual, in our desire to know that Jesus is our friend and God, we have**

embraced an evangelical Christianity in which our sense of the holiness of God, the purity of God, the righteousness of God has been lost.

Yes, there is the joyful-isn't it great-Jesus-is-my-friend. Yes, I walk with Him and He is accessible and that is so true. But there is a part that every time people in Scripture meet God, or you meet people who have been transformed, there is some window of time where you see that He is holy. And when you see that He is holy, here's what you get.

You're not holy. You're not at all.

Your righteousness is like filthy rags and so is mine. **The word holy means set apart, distinct, different, separate. The word literally means a cut above.** The word holy is He is other. There is not a category for Him.

When you come into the presence of a holy God, you come undone.

I don't see many Christians, or many churches, very often undone in the presence of God.

I think some of the older traditions actually helped us grasp God's holiness. Unfortunately, He became a distant, cold God who we would reach Him through significant rituals, which was never the intent.

We need to know that Jesus is my friend and that He loves me and He accepts me just as I am and He is tenderhearted and quick of sympathy.

But the morality of the average Christian in the evangelical church would scream, “I don’t believe He is holy. I think I can do what I want, when I want, and God basically will give me a pass” because in the name of love, no matter what Scripture says. “Oh, God is loving. So this kind of relationship must be okay. God is loving so this kind of morality is okay. God is loving so I get a pass on everything because a loving God just wants me to be happy.”

You know all the statistics. I am not going to go through all the areas of morality in America today - **the average Christian and the average unbeliever look exactly the same.**

And He said we are a kingdom of priests. He said, “Be separate.” He said, “Come out of the darkness.” Not weird separate. It doesn’t mean you dress funny. It doesn’t mean that you have habits that make you look weird. It doesn’t mean that you are not a part or involved in the culture. But separate from the inside out, that we are actually holy in thought, word, and deed.

If only we could grasp the holiness and the greatness of God, but not lose the intimacy of what it means to have Jesus as our friend.

You’ll notice on the front of your notes, a quote from Tozer:

“We know nothing like the divine holiness. It stands apart unique, unapproachable, incomprehensible, and unattainable.

The natural man is blind to it. He may fear God's power and admire His wisdom, but His holiness He cannot even imagine."

The first time we see this concept of holiness is right after the Red Sea is parted. There's a song that Moses sings.

EXODUS 15:11

3 – SCRIPTURE SLIDE

¹¹"Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, **majestic in holiness**, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?"

Holiness is both God's majesty and moral purity. It's the absolute absence of evil. It encompasses what is pure, holy, righteous. The English root word for holiness has the idea of wholeness or soundness. It encompasses the idea of health.

And so to be holy isn't candles and a black robe and singing special songs with a very low voice with low lights. It's about the wholeness or the purity of God that brings life and brings health because as God is, He wants us to become.

And so not, obviously, in His essence, but in our character, that we would be holy like He is holy.

4 – POINT SLIDE

**HOW DOES GOD REVEAL HIS HOLINESS TO US?
THROUGH SUPERNATURAL ENCOUNTERS**

First, God reveals His holiness to us through supernatural encounters. Moses meets God, John meets God, Daniel meets God, Isaiah meets God. And here's all I want to say. Whenever you see someone meet God in Scripture, they are undone. Bam! They are on their face. They come undone.

And so the question I have to ask myself and you is: **When was the last time you were in the presence of God and just you were undone?**

5 – POINT SLIDE

THROUGH PLACES

Second, He reveals His holiness through places. What you need to know is **wherever God is, it instantly becomes holy**. It can be a bush; it's holy. It can be just a tent and you call it a tabernacle and His presence comes; it's holy. It can be a temple that people build; it's holy. Wherever God's presence is, it becomes holy.

6 – POINT SLIDE

THROUGH THE LAW

The third way He reveals His holiness is through the law. The first four commandments are all about the distinctiveness, the holiness of God.

Have no other gods because there aren't any. And then, "No graven images." Don't reduce Me, don't make a picture of Me, don't have an idol. Don't, in any way, try and reduce Me in

some form. My name is Holy because it's My character. Don't misuse My name. Don't make vows in My name.

The Sabbath: Supernaturally, when I got done with creation, I stopped to pause. For 24 hours I want you to know I am giving you a gift, so that you will be separate, you will be distinct, you will be different. You will accomplish in six days what takes other people seven. And you will rest and pause so that you will know the last six days were My hand upon you and you will pause to remember: This is God. Remember the Sabbath to keep it holy.

And then the next six commands, on the second tablet, are about health and holiness in relationships. In other words, the path of holiness, Isaiah would talk about the highway of holiness. **There's a path of holiness that you walk on, but the result is health and wholeness for you and for relationships.**

So if you want healthy, whole relationships, honor your mom and dad, don't commit murder, don't lie, don't steal, don't commit adultery, and don't covet. Those are the parameters around holy relationships with one another for the health of God's creation and His people.

7 – POINT SLIDE

THROUGH THE PROPHETS

Fourth, through the prophets – like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Zechariah, just to name a few. A prophet's job was pretty simple. "Stop

worshipping idols.” Name your prophet. Here’s the message: “Stop worshipping idols.” Because we all do.

But God is holy, He is distinct. **And so the prophet’s job was simple: to afflict the comfortable and to comfort the afflicted.**

They were always intervening, “Whoa, whoa, whoa, wait. You don’t understand. It’s your sin, it’s what has happened, it’s where you are. But God is available. He wants to help.” That’s what the prophets kept saying.

And to the people who acted like they didn’t need Him, they had some pretty harsh stuff.

8 – POINT SLIDE

THROUGH HIS WRATH AND JUDGMENT

Fifth, through wrath and judgment. This may sound odd, but the holiness of God demands that just like a great surgeon would see cancer that needs to be operated on ... what would he do? He would cut it out.

When God sees that which is killing you, killing a nation, destroying what He has made, He brings His righteous wrath and judgment. He wants to get rid of that cancer.

Go to Acts chapter 5. We talked about this a few months ago.

Ananias and Sapphira. They hid money, their money. But that wasn’t the problem. The problem was they lied to God. The problem was they wanted people to think highly of them and praise them.

What were the consequences? They died!

You think that sent a message through the early church? Or maybe I'm thinking about becoming a Christian. You want to be coming into that group? I'll tell you what, authenticity was a pretty high value in the early church. **YOU DON'T HAVE TO HAVE IT TOGETHER BUT YOU HAD BETTER NOT FAKE IT.**

See, we are living in a day where we actually think that the commands of God are like an optional vending machine or salad bar. Ten Commandments? I'm good with one, two, four, seven, and nine.

It's like we have got a whole generation in evangelical churches with a pair of scissors and a Bible. Well, this one about sexual purity. That's pretty Victorian. He surely couldn't mean that anymore. On this one about greed, well ...

What happens ... pretty soon enough people are phoning it in and we have all just become a much lesser degree than God ever called us to be. Or we look at someone that we respect and we say, "I really respect so-and-so and they do this or they do that or..."

And then pretty soon it's like a little cancer and disease. And then the culture of God's people, we are no longer distinct. This isn't new.

1 Corinthians 11 – In the early Church in Corinth we saw the wealthy would come and they would eat and they would marginalize the poor and they were disgracing the Lord's table.

1 CORINTHIANS 11:30

9 – SCRIPTURE SLIDE

³⁰That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died.

I'll tell you what, if I was in a church where some people died because of their greed and lack of concern for other believers with the Lord's Supper, I'll tell you what, my behavior would change.

10 – POINT SLIDE – THROUGH HIS WRATH AND JUDGEMENT

So where is that God today? I don't think He has changed. When the salt gets unsalty and when the light gets dim, the culture just follows. I would suggest that we, as Christians, often blame the media, education, some political party. **BUT THE SHIFT IN THE CULTURE IS NOT GOING TO HAPPEN EXTERNALLY.** It's going to happen like it always has: inside out. It will be normal people like us that live holy lives and then we all have little networks of relationships. And some of you have really big ones. And you'll just get bold.

I know that we are afraid of getting persecution, but that's why we are called to be bold. It's not easy, but we live a life set apart, holy for God. When we do, persecution will happen. That's okay.

I don't know why we let persecution stop us.

Watch a football game. You see a running back strap on all of his equipment. Get handed the football, run through a crowd of

defenders only to be swarmed and tackled. Crushed to the ground.

Do you ever see that guy get up, look around at the people that just tackled him like, "I can't believe you just did that. I don't want that to happen again." So he takes off his helmet, jogs off the field and sits in the bleachers watching the game.

That doesn't happen. They know the game. They know that there is opposition trying to stop them. They know they are going to get tackled. That's why they put on the pads. But you know what, they keep getting up, they keep getting back in there, they keep pressing for the win.

Why are we in the Church so backwards on this? Jesus made it perfectly clear. You get in the game, you will get hit. That's why we have the armor of God. We strap that on, we get in the game, we get hit, we get back up. Why? Because He has already won. We know the outcome, we just need to keep getting back on the field because we want to fight and save as many lives as we possibly can before the game is over. **But so many are just sitting on the sidelines, watching the game afraid to get hurt.**

Now, the danger is championing that in a way where your hard-headed, legalistic, self-righteous saying that we are better than other people. We have done that before; that didn't work. We need to do it the way Jesus did. **We need to live this amazing life before our world that is pure and righteous and take a strong stand and then have people who think that we are the enemies be absolutely astounded.** Why are we driving them to

the doctor? Why are we loving people who outwardly hate us? Why do we give good instead of evil? **Because that is what turns the life around. And that's how holiness brings health.**

11 – POINT SLIDE

THROUGH HIS SON

Sixth, through His Son. The Lord Jesus, His holy birth; His pure, sinless life. We get the sneak preview of His holiness at the Transfiguration.

Jesus was holy, He was set apart, He was perfect.

12 – POINT SLIDE

THROUGH HIS PEOPLE

Seventh, through the people of God.

We are going to look at two different scriptures here. Old Testament and New Testament. In your notes it says THEN and NOW. The reality is, the first one we are going to look at, even though it says THEN, it is how God still reveals His holiness.

Isaiah is a prophet, he is a spokesman for God and sees God in a vision.

ISAIAH 6:1-8

13 – SCRIPTURE SLIDE

¹In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple.

God speaks to us in ways, often, that are unique to our personality and how we hear. This prophet, he is living in a world of kings, with robes that had trains.

The more important you are, the longer your train. God's train fills the entire temple.

14 – SCRIPTURE SLIDE

²Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

15 – SCRIPTURE SLIDE

³And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

16 – SCRIPTURE SLIDE

⁴And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke.

17 – SCRIPTURE SLIDE

⁵And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

This is an awesome sight. You have Isaiah, a pretty righteous man. And when He gets a view of God, it instantly results in an inward look. He comes undone. He sees God, He sees how Holy God is and instantly realizes how far He is from God. Woe is me!

18 – SCRIPTURE SLIDE

⁶Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar.

19 – SCRIPTURE SLIDE

⁷And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for."

20 – SCRIPTURE SLIDE

⁸And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."

Did you see the pattern?

HE HAS AN UPWARD VIEW OF GOD, WHICH CAUSES AN INWARD VIEW OF HIMSELF, BUT BECAUSE OF GOD'S GRACE HE ENDS WITH AN OUTWARD VIEW FOR GOD'S PEOPLE.

For some of you, with a really sensitive conscience, you have to be careful that in your moments with God you don't just go completely introspective. Oh yeah. My motives are bad. And I'm bad. I think I'm really terrible. In fact, I'm a worm. I'm worse than a worm.

21 – POINT SLIDE – THROUGH HIS PEOPLE

Here's the deal: **WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTS YOU, IT IS FOR A VERY SPECIFIC REASON.** You are the object of His love and He will tell you very specifically where you don't measure up so that you can say to Him, I am so sorry. And the blood of Christ covers it to restore you to fellowship.

WHEN THE ENEMY WANTS TO DISCOURAGE YOU, HE DOESN'T CONVICT. IT'S CALLED CONDEMNATION. And condemnation is vague and general. You're a lousy...Fill in the blank.

Everyone goes through this. When I have my bad condemnation moments, it's like, I'm a terrible dad, I'm a terrible pastor, I'm a terrible husband. I bet 97.3 percent of all my motives are wrong, even when I'm teaching. Blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah.

And you know what it makes me feel like? I don't want to pray; I don't want to get near God.

So that's when you do spiritual warfare. You say, "I don't believe any of that. This is who I am in Christ. I'm the son, I'm the daughter of a living God. I have His righteousness and I am robed in righteousness. I am accepted by the Beloved. Get out of here!"

When God convicts us, it's different. It is a holy, kind, good, tenderhearted God that wants to build you up. He wants to transform you. So He will not tear you down through verbal assaults. Instead, He convicts you about specific sin, specific areas where you are falling short.

Isaiah has this picture of upward and then inward. And then notice, when that happens, your priorities change and you say, God, what do You want me to do? It's just the opposite of our day: God, what can You do for me? God, how do You make my

life work out? How can I be more fulfilled? How can I get more of this? How can I do some of that? How will You change...?

We are always asking God to change everything. Try this one: **GOD, CHANGE ME. JUST CHANGE ME.**

Now, another where God reveals His holiness, in your notes it says NOW, is in 1 Corinthians chapter 6.

1 CORINTHIANS 6:18-20

22 – SCRIPTURE SLIDE

¹⁸Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.

23 – SCRIPTURE SLIDE

¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,

24 – SCRIPTURE SLIDE

²⁰for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

I know it's hard, but pause for a moment and just imagine. Go back to the mountain. Trembling, filled with smoke and lightening. Now visualize the temple, filled with the train of God's robe. All of these creatures chanting "Holy, Holy, Holy." I know this is hard to visualize ... but here you are, face on the ground, in absolute awe.

And then I want you to try and even ponder **THAT THE TEMPLE THAT GOD HAS CHOSEN IN THE NEW COVENANT**, where He wants His presence manifested, **IS YOUR BODY**. He owns you. He bought you.

25 – POINT SLIDE – THROUGH HIS PEOPLE

We read of these Old Testament characters like David, empowered by the Spirit; and the prophet, empowered by the Spirit; and Elijah doing this. Even Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Peter, at the Transfiguration. We, New Testament believers, have a more intimate relationship and access to the God of creation than any of them did.

Because the Spirit of God would come in the Old Testament at times and anoint with power and manifest His presence.

Now, the Holy Spirit lives in your body and God's game plan to take His message to the world is not to get people to come to a temple in Jerusalem to see the glory and the power of God and the nation that has been transformed, but to take you and I in sort of decentralized distribution.

And now we go forth and in your home, you are the ambassador of the living God with His Spirit living within you. And your job is to reveal God to your family. Then you go in your driveway to reveal God to your neighbors. And then you go to work to reveal God.

And not only to reveal God, but then because you are a part of a new kingdom, you bring the kingdom love and the kingdom

life and the kingdom values. And so instead of ego and pride, you champion humility. And instead of: Who are the powerful people to get close to? You care for the marginalized. And you become this living temple that begins to impact like salt and light or leaven in bread, transforming.

That's how the world got changed. And nothing has changed in terms of God's agenda. Have you ever thought? **SO ASK YOURSELF: SO WHAT DO YOU PUT IN THIS TEMPLE? WHAT DOES THIS TEMPLE VIEW? WHERE DO THESE HANDS GO? HOW DO YOU TREAT THIS TEMPORARY TEMPLE?**

If we would ever grasp that, wouldn't there be a set of very logical implications? And, again, it wouldn't be some legalistic, I can never do this, I can't watch this, this is bad, I don't wear lipstick, I don't go to movies, and I don't play cards. I don't think that got us very far.

But you, like the psalmist, would say, Oh God. I will put no worthless thing in my mind. You would say, I want only holy thoughts. You wouldn't be asking questions like, I wonder how close to sin can I get without falling in? You would be asking, How close can I get to righteousness and holiness to be pleasing to my God? It's just a completely different paradigm.

26 – TITLE SLIDE

GOD'S HOLINESS RAISES TWO IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

Well, God's holiness raises a couple questions and we touched on them earlier but I think it's important that we at least address them here.

IF GOD IS SO HOLY THAT HE CAN'T GAZE ON SIN, HOW CAN SINFUL PEOPLE LIKE US HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?

This is the greatest news in the world. It's the gospel. It's the gospel. This is, guess what, you can't! But Jesus made it possible.

ROMANS 5:6-10

27 – SCRIPTURE SLIDE

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

Notice it's not when we cleaned up our act. It's not when we got religious. At the right time, when we were helpless, when you bring nothing. And then he says,

28 – SCRIPTURE SLIDE

⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—

29 – SCRIPTURE SLIDE

⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Put a circle around the little word for. There are two words in Greek for, for. This is the word that means on behalf of and in the place of. He is your substitute. Everything that I deserve because of my sin, as the just righteous wrath of God would come toward me, Jesus steps in front and says, “I got it.” And then as we will learn later, He will say, “I’ll take the judgment of God and I will give you the righteousness of Christ.”

30 – SCRIPTURE SLIDE

⁹Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

31 – SCRIPTURE SLIDE

¹⁰For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

Have you thought of the juxtaposition of what we are talking about? This holy, awesome God, we are undone! We are uncovered! We are His enemies ... and then over here, we are friends! Reconciled. This is the greatest news. This should always leave us in awe of just how awesome, just how good, and just how sovereign God is.

32 – TITLE SLIDE

How can we have a relationship with Him? Because He paid the ultimate price for us.

The second question then is **IF TRUSTING GOD'S WORK ON THE CROSS BLOTS OUT OUR SIN BEFORE GOD AND WE ARE HOLY IN HIS SIGHT, WHY DO WE KEEP ON SINNING?**

And we touched on this but just write in these notes, because it will be more clear, the three aspects of holiness. There's a point in time, there's a process, and there's an end.

JUSTIFICATION: (POSITIONAL HOLINESS)

The moment you put your faith in Christ as Savior, you are legally declared righteous. So sin's penalty, in other words, the penalty for sin – you are forgiven because of Christ's work.

When I trust in Christ, I am justified and my debt is gone ... And then the righteousness of Christ is put into my account. That's my positional, legal standing. I have been forgiven, legally, of all my sin and the power of sin has been broken.

SANCTIFICATION: (PROGRESSIVE HOLINESS)

But notice then in sanctification is progressive holiness and so the penalty of sin is gone, but now I work out, I begin in my practice to become holy. Before, I couldn't decide whether I wanted to sin or not. Now, I can choose to live righteously, but since the flesh wages war against the soul and since I live in a world system drawing me away, I can still choose to sin.

And when I choose to sin, it breaks fellowship with my heavenly Father. I don't lose my salvation. God is not reaching down and giving me salvation and taking it back and giving it to me and taking it back throughout the course of the day, week, month.

BUT the connection, the line, there's static. And the more I willfully sin, I can, over time, begin to shut off connection and relationship of His power in my life.

So I confess my sins; He is faithful and just to forgive me my sin and keep on cleansing me. This is a progressive process. I always liken this to what God did to the Israelites when they took over the promised land.

GLORIFICATION: (PERMANENT HOLINESS)

Finally, the day will come when either the Lord returns or I die. And I immediately go into His presence. And when I see Christ, I will be transformed.

Anybody know what the Spirit of God is called in the book of Ephesians? Your down payment, your guarantee.

So you live out your faith and you progressively become more holy and it requires, like a newborn babe long for the pure milk of God's Word, so that by it you might change and be transformed.

I have to go through the process of putting off the old, putting on the new. It's a journey; it's a process. I'm not going to be conformed to this world. I am going to be transformed by the renewing of my mind so that my lifestyle would progressively demonstrate God's will – the good, acceptable, perfect will of God – Romans 12:2. But at some point in time, when I die, the Lord willing my life has progressively and dramatically changed,

then I will meet Christ and I will be transformed once and for all and be holy: glorification. Permanent Holiness.

My only caution is don't read works into sanctification. This is something that God does to us, then He is doing in us, and then finally He perfects us. This is all God working in and on our lives.

HOW MUST WE RESPOND TO THE HOLINESS OF GOD?

FIRST, IT'S A DECISION THAT WE MAKE.

33 – SCRIPTURE SLIDE

HEBREWS 12:14

¹⁴Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

You don't slide into holiness either. It's a commitment. Scripture says God hates sin. God hates arrogance.

34 – POINT SLIDE – IT'S A DECISION WE MAKE

A commitment to holiness is: I want to be holy. Not: I am doing better than others, or, I think I have had this struggle and I come from this family background so anger is an issue in our family. And everyone I have known in our family, well, they have always divorced. And it's really hard and I'll try and do good but we just don't do relationships well. Or, I had this problem with my...

Just stop it. We all have that stuff. "Be holy even as God is holy." Is it impossible? Of course it's impossible. The Christian life is impossible.

Have you ever seen those graphs that show you what happens when you divide a number by two? You can literally divide a number in half an infinite amount of times. It will infinitely get closer to zero, but never actually become zero. I have always known and understood counting to infinity. That makes sense. But to realize that you can get infinite close to something without ever reaching it ... that was mind blowing.

We are not going to come to a day where we are like ... I made it. I am completely and utterly holy. Perfection at last. That moment will only happen in glorification when God makes us completely holy.

But ... we can commit to holiness. We can commit to ever increasingly get as close to holiness as we possibly can and really ever increasingly realize just how great God is and how far from Him we are.

But it starts with: You've got to want to be holy.

35 – POINT SLIDE

IT'S A COMMAND WE OBEY

Then the command is in 1 Peter. It's a command to obey. I love it, because he makes it really clear that it was hard for those early Christians; it's hard for us. And it's not about willpower.

1 PETER 1:13-16

36 – SCRIPTURE SLIDE

¹³Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Do you want to live a holy life? Then get your game face on. Prepare you mind ... be sober-minded. Have a correct outlook on this life and what it is really about. You need to realize there's all this stuff coming at you and you're not going to slide into it.

Here's what's going to be hard but you're going to set your hope on the grace that will be brought to you. Live for the end. Live with the eternal end in mind.

37 – SCRIPTURE SLIDE

¹⁴As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance,

38 – SCRIPTURE SLIDE

¹⁵but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,

39 – SCRIPTURE SLIDE

¹⁶since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

Be holy in all your conduct.

40 – TITLE SLIDE

Prayer for the week

O Lord God, holy and pure, awesome in majesty, as I consider Your perfection, grant that I might commit to holy ways, think holy thoughts, live in holy obedience, and reject evil with a holy attitude.

Let me hear the tender conviction of Your Spirit and help me remember that You are jealous for Your holiness. Because of Your love, You see the pain our sins will bring us, and You long to rescue us.

So that You name will never be profaned in my life, You have my permission to do whatever You need to do to make me holy.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

40 – TITLE SLIDE