

SOLID

LIVING HOLY LIVES

EPHESIANS 4:17 - 5:7

For many people the word 'holiness' conjures up images of a self-righteous person who is totally removed from the problems of the world, talks only about "spiritual things" and is serious and even sullen in appearance. Yet the New Testament word 'holy' is used to describe God's people in general and not a select few.

People often view pastors, ministers, missionaries and full-time Christian workers as more holy than other Christians. Why do you think this is so?

Holiness is the goal of the Christian's life and is fundamental to our witness and service in the world. Robert Murray McCheyne has rightly written that a holy person is "an awesome weapon in the hand of God." In this light, we need to recapture the biblical call to holy living.

Read Ephesians 4:17 – 5:7

1. In verses 17-19 Paul describes how the Gentiles live. In what way does he describe their minds, hearts and practices?

2. How does this description compare with the world which we live in today?

3. In contrast to non-Christians described in verses 17-19, how were the Ephesians taught to live as Christians (v 20-24)?

4. If you are to become like God in true righteousness and holiness (v 24), why is it essential for you to "be made new in the attitude of your mind" (v 23)?

5. In practical terms, what can we do to renew our minds?

6. Because of our new identity in Christ, what things must be put away, and what things ought to take their place (v 25-32)?

7. How can we imitate God and Christ in our relationships with others (5:1-2)?

8. Why is it “improper” and “out of place” for God’s holy people to do the things mentioned in verses 3-4?

9. Looking back over the passage, what different areas of our life are to be affected by holiness?

The End Bit!

We need to ask God to help us live holy lives, pleasing and acceptable in His sight. We can renew our minds, each and every day by taking time to meditate on God’s Word and to pray, asking for His guidance in our lives.

We each face different trials and temptations in our lives, but if our faith is firmly founded in Christ, the solid rock, He will sustain us in all things.

Verse to Remember:

‘Dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.’

2 Corinthians 7:1