



Let's Talk CHANGE DEVOTIONALS

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BE HOLY FOR I AM HOLY

Dr. Vanessa Dantzler Ussery | September 16, 2015

*"But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, be holy, for I am holy."
1 Peter 1:15-16 NKJV*

Addressing holiness is an unpopular subject today. When thinking about the concept of holy it makes many people uncomfortable. The unbeliever does not relate to it particularly if it means abandoning their worldview because it opposes God's word. The believer today does not gravitate to the idea of being holy as we prefer to highlight our carnal nature which is prone to sin. Somewhere along the way the believers of Christ minimize the desire to mortify the deeds of the flesh and maximize the weakness of the flesh.

Do we really believe that living holy in all our conduct is an expectation of God? Why not adopt the view that we should strive to reach the mark (holy in conduct) as opposed to being comfortable with missing the mark (sin). I know we don't hit the mark every time, however, if I allow my thinking to gravitate toward a sloppy lifestyle then the potential of living holy is very slim.

Golfing is a great example of this. Professional golfers practice consistently to improve their game. When they attend a tournament they play the same course perhaps 3 times. I noticed it is not often they repeat the same result on each hole each time they play it. However, their goal is to reduce the number of strokes required to get their ball in the hole. Each time they play the hole, that goal is in mind. Whether they achieve it or not, the goal is before them. When a golfer completes under par they are so excited and feel the practice has paid off. Next time they come to that same hole they are very disappointed if they par it. And on the third time around they are even more disappointed if they end up with a bogey. The important thing is their goal is to be under par each time.

We should take our living before God with the same attitude. We should prefer to achieve the results of Jesus on every occasion and be holy as He is. And we should be disappointed with our lack of results when we miss the mark because we knowingly sin. We need to deal with the sin we are totally aware of and decide to not console our misses with the thought, "I'm not Jesus." That actually says there is no goal before us thus devaluing He is our example of being holy. We should aim with a large desire to emulate Him.

Lacking a desire to be holy makes one question why would the Word encourage us to be holy in our conduct. The world needs to see more committed believers who have a clear goal in mind and that is to be holy like Jesus. It's time we change our view to compliment the Word of God. He gave His life for us so let's live our lives for Him by being like Him!

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