

Growth Group Homework

For the week of January 26, 2014

MY STORY

1. If you had been asked prior to this message to name a modern day “holy person,” who would you have named?
2. What concepts of holiness did you pick up as a kid, if any?
3. Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Larry talked about fake models of holiness who tended to “overdo” what God says or distort it. On the other hand, we often see people “under doing” holiness and taking God’s Word lightly or viewing it as optional. How do the following verses help balance “overdoing it” and “under doing it” when it comes to being set apart?

1 Corinthians 10:23-24

Romans 14:19-23

Galatians 5:13-15

Where do you tend to fall on a spectrum from “over doing it” to “under doing it” when it comes to being holy?

2. This week’s message pointed out how some of us have been turned off by the idea of being holy because of all the negative associations we have with the word including it being not fun, weird and unpopular among our peers. In reality, there are blessings for those who are set apart. What picture do the following verses paint that would counter negative associations of the word “holy”?

Psalms 16:7-11

Isaiah 40:31

Psalm 84:11

Which of these verses is most encouraging to you in continuing to live a holy life?

3. One of the greatest decisions we can make to truly be set apart is to join together with people who are making the same choice (as we do in Growth Group). How do the following verses describe what a healthy, set apart community would look like?

Proverbs 27:17

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Ephesians 4:1-3

Can you think of any examples of how you've experienced the benefits described in the verses above? If so, explain.

TAKING IT HOME

Looking back at this week's teaching and study, what steps do you want to take in the next few weeks to be set apart?

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1 Corinthians 10:23-24

The Believer’s Freedom

²³ “I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but not everything is constructive. ²⁴ No one should seek their own good, but the good of others. [NIV]

Romans 14:19-23

¹⁹ Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. ²⁰ Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a person to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. ²¹ It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother or sister to fall.

²² So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves. ²³ But whoever has doubts is condemned if they eat, because their eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin. [NIV]

Galatians 5:13-15

Life by the Spirit

¹³ You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. ¹⁴ For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵ If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. [NIV]

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Psalm 16:7-11

⁷ I will praise the Lord, who counsels me;
even at night my heart instructs me.
⁸ I keep my eyes always on the Lord.
With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.
⁹ Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest secure,
¹⁰ because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,
nor will you let your faithful one see decay.
¹¹ You make known to me the path of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at your right hand. *[NIV]*

Isaiah 40:31

³¹ but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint. *[NIV]*

Psalm 84:11

¹¹ For the Lord God is a sun and shield;
the Lord bestows favor and honor;
no good thing does he withhold
from those whose walk is blameless. *[NIV]*

Which of these verses is most encouraging to you in continuing to live a holy life?

3. One of the greatest decisions we can make to truly be set apart is to join together with people who are making the same choice (as we do in Growth Group). How do the following verses describe what a healthy, set apart community would look like?

Proverbs 27:17

¹⁷ As iron sharpens iron,
so one person sharpens another. *[NIV]*

1 Thessalonians 5:11

¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. *[NIV]*

Ephesians 4:1-3

Unity and Maturity in the Body of Christ

¹ As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. *[NIV]*

Can you think of any examples of how you've experienced the benefits described in the verses above? If so, explain.

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