

Jan. 29,
2012

TCC YOUTH

For Small Groups & Personal Study

Daily Exposure to
God's Word

Monday



Happiness vs. Holiness

Read section to the right and look at the verses. Pray for God to have you to desire holiness more than happiness.

Tuesday

Ephesians 4:17-24

Remind yourself that you have a new self in Christ and pray for God to help you live according to His truth.

Wednesday

Colossians 3:1-11

What would your response be to things that don't go your way if you put your mind on Christ first before you reacted?

Thursday

2 Timothy 4:1-5

What does Timothy say to do when faced with desires to do the wrong things? Pray for God to enable you to work hard & Follow Him.

Friday

Titus 3:1-8

Titus told us we should do good. Do 1 good thing for each of your family members today.

Saturday

2 Peter 1:1-4

God gives us all we need to follow Him. Seek God's Truth with Passion!

LOPSIDED CHRISTIANITY

Triangle Community Church
Student Ministry

PART 5: CHRIST'S CALL TO HOLINESS

Happiness vs. Holiness

Having a Lopsided Christian life can be very frustrating. This week we are looking at how our pursuit of a happy life can be a stumbling block to having fulfilled Christian walk. Don't be Lopsided!

Here is a short devotional thought from "Our Daily Bread." (www.oddb.org)

At Harvard University, you can take a course in happiness. This popular class helps students discover, as the professor states, "How to get happy."

That's not a bad idea. In fact, the Bible even suggests on several occasions the importance of being happy or joyful. Solomon tells us that God grants happiness to us as a privilege ([Eccl. 3:12](#); [7:14](#); [11:9](#)).

Sometimes, though, we take the search for earthly happiness too far. We see it as the most important pursuit, and even believe that our happiness is God's highest goal for us. That's when our thinking gets confused.

God's Word tells us that true happiness comes by keeping God's law ([Ps. 1:1-2](#); [Prov. 16:20](#); [29:18](#)). God demands holiness and has called us to live a holy life—one that exemplifies His moral character ([1 Thess. 4:7](#); [2 Peter 3:11](#)). In Peter's first letter we read, "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](#)).

When we face decisions about the way we should act or how we should live, we must keep in mind that God's command is not "Be happy," but "Be holy." True joy will come from a holy, God-honoring life.

In all I think and say and do,
I long, O God, to honor You;
But may my highest motive be
To love the Christ who died for me.
—D. De Haan

**There is no true happiness apart
from holiness and no holiness
apart from Christ.**

Group Questions

Part 5: Christ's Call to Holiness

Connect with Others

1. Share one of the happiest days of your life. Why did it make you so happy?
2. Do you think it is wrong to try and be happy? Explain your answer.

Dig in the Message

****Read A.W. Tozer quotes to the right and discuss these questions.**

3. Why do you think the true Christian Ideal is to be Holy rather than Happy?
4. What do you think are some of the cheap things men set their hearts on according to Tozer?
5. Do you think you can pursue Happiness and Holiness?
6. What would have to change about your life for you to pursue a life of holiness rather than happiness?

* Turn your Bibles to 1 Peter 1:13-25

7. Believers should strive for purity of life. (1 Peter 1:13-16). What are the things Peter tells us to do in v. 13-14?
8. How would these things change the way we live?
9. Believers should strive for perfection of love. (1 Peter 1:22-25). If all that matters is Love, how important is it for us to know what perfect Love (God's Love) is?
10. Describe what God's Love is using v. 18-25.

Transform and Apply

"Love one another fervently with a pure heart." (1 Peter 1:22) The Holy Spirit enables and empowers the divine life that we now have in Christ. (See also 2 Peter 1:3-4). Therefore, we can love one another fervently and with a pure heart. Is this true in your life?

Do you have difficulty loving the unlovable, the cantankerous, the arrogant, the ones who rub you the wrong way? Or, are you letting the Holy Spirit enable and empower you to love fervently and with a pure heart?

Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you in God's truth and give you the desire to "Be Holy" just as God is Holy. * Be sure to read the scriptures each day this week in your pursuit of Loving God and Loving Others.

******Read "How Can We Be Holy" and apply those 5 areas to your life each day.**

Scripture Memory

Matthew 6:9-13

9 "Pray, then, in this way : 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. 11 'Give us this day our daily bread. 12 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]'

Definition of Holiness:

To be holy is the opposite of being "common" or "profane." God is holy in that He is utterly different and distinct from His creation. His people must also be distinct, separate from the heathen attitudes and actions which characterized them as unbelievers.

Read [1 Peter 2:9](#) and discuss this verse and what you think it means based upon the definition of Holiness.

Quotes by A.W. Tozer

*** Read each statement then discuss questions 3 -**

1. The true Christian ideal is not to be happy but to be holy.
2. The whole purpose of God in redemption is to make us holy and to restore us to the image of God. To accomplish this He disengages us from earthly ambitions and draws us away from the cheap and unworthy prizes that worldly men set their hearts upon.
3. No man should desire to be happy who is not at the same time holy. He should spend his efforts in seeking to know and do the will of God, leaving to Christ the matter of how happy he shall be.
4. Go to God and have an understanding. Tell Him that it is your desire to be holy at any cost and then ask Him never to give you more happiness than holiness. When your holiness becomes tarnished, let your joy become dim. And ask Him to make you holy whether you are happy or not. Be assured that in the end you will be as happy as you are holy; but for the time being let your whole ambition be to serve God and be Christlike.

How Can We Be Holy?

As we "strive" for purity of life, strive does not mean that we do this in our own strength, but we need the power of the Holy Spirit to work in our lives. We have to work at being holy and we have to work at letting the Holy Spirit take control in our lives. Discuss and consider.

Consider the five exhortations given to believers in reference to purity of life.

1) Gird up the loins of your mind. Read 2 Corinthians 10:5.

2) Be sober or self-controlled. Recall times when you have sensed yourself being out of control. What steps could you have taken to be self-controlled?

3) Rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. How frequently during the day do you consider your eternal future and eternal benefits that will be fully realized when the Lord returns? Does this affect your daily investments?

4) Don't be conformed to past evil desires. How do you find release from conforming to your former evil desires? Are you practicing the positive – staying in God's word; continuing in prayer; involving yourself in Christian service; meeting frequently with other believers, being accountable to them?

5) Be holy. Read 1 Peter 1:15 and Leviticus 11:44. God's desire and empowerment by the Holy Spirit is for us to be holy. Are you striving to be holy? We will never be sinless in this life, but as believers, we are to sin less. Are you sinning less?

There is no true happiness apart from holiness and no holiness apart from Christ.