

The Call To Holiness

I Thess. 4:1-7

Introduction

- What Is Holiness?
 - Separation to God. (Sanctification, sanctify, saint) Separated from sin and consecrated to God. Pure from evil conduct and observant of God's will.
- Why Is Holiness Important?
 - Holiness has always been a defining trait of God's people.
 - Exodus 19:5-6 → 19:5 And now, if you will diligently listen to me and keep my covenant, then you will be my special possession out of all the nations, for all the earth is mine, 6 and you will be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you will speak to the Israelites." (cf. Dt. 26:18-19)
 - God's people are called on to be holy because He is holy.
 - Lev. 11:44 → for I am the Lord your God and you are to sanctify yourselves and be holy because I am holy...
 - Holiness is a boundary marker that distinguishes God's people from those in the world.
 - Lev. 20:23-26 → 20:23 You must not walk in the statutes of the nation which I am about to drive out before you, because they have done all these things and I am filled with disgust against them. 24 So I have said to you: You yourselves will possess their land and I myself will give it to you for a possession, a land flowing with milk and honey. I am the Lord your God who has set you apart from the other . . . 26 You must be holy to me because I, the Lord, am holy, and I have set you apart from the other peoples to be mine.
 - Without holiness no man shall see the Lord. (Heb. 12:14)

Discussion

- Holiness In I Thessalonians...
 - The Thessalonians had turned from idols to God.
 - (I Thess. 1:9) → . . . how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.
 - Paul's teaching to them centers around the predominate message of "holiness".
- How Holiness Manifest Itself...
 - Holiness is seen in service to God.
 - your work of faith
 - labor of love
 - endurance of hope. (I Thess. 1:3)
 - Holiness is seen in imitation of the Lord.
 - And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, when you received the message. . . (I Thess. 1:6)
 - Holiness is seen in becoming an example to others.
 - As a result you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. (I Thess. 1:7)
 - Holiness seen in our teaching. (I Thess. 2:1-12)
 - For the appeal we make does not come from error or impurity or with deceit, (I Thess. 2:3)
 - Holiness is seen in moral purity. (I Thess. 4:1-8)
 - keep away from sexual immorality
 - possess his own body in holiness and honor
 - no one should violate the rights of his brother or take advantage of him,
 - because the Lord is the avenger in all these cases
 - For God did not call us to impurity but in holiness
 - Holiness in view of the coming of Jesus Christ. (I Thess. 4:13-5:11)
 - Jesus is coming again. (I Thess. 4:16)
 - We must be found as children of light and the day, not of night or darkness. (I Thess. 5:5-9)

Conclusion

- God's people are to be holy.
 - I Peter 2:5 → you yourselves, as living stones, are built up as a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood and to offer spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
 - I Peter 1:15-16 → but, like the Holy One who called you, become holy yourselves in all of your conduct, 1:16 for it is written, "**You shall be holy, because I am holy.**"