Holiness
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I. Introduction.

    A. God has called every Christian to a holy life. (1 Peter 1:15-16)

    B. Holiness is conformity to the moral character of God.

II. The importance of holiness.

    A. Without holiness, no one will see God. (Hebrews 12:14; Titus 2:11-12)

    B. God hates sin.

III. God's provision for holiness.

    A. There is a kingdom of darkness and a kingdom of light. Through Jesus we have been rescued from the first for the second. (Romans 6:11-12; Acts 20:18; Colossians 1:13; Ephesians 2:1)

    B. We have become spiritually united to Christ. (John 15; 2 Corinthians 5:14; Galatians 2:20)

    C. Deliverance from the kingdom of sin does not mean that we are no longer influenced by sin. (Colossians 1:13)

    D. Implications of being alive to God.

        1. We are united to Christ and all of his power. (Philippians 4:13)

        2. The Spirit of God has been given to us to make us holy.

            a. He causes us to begin to see our sin. (Jeremiah 17:9)

            b. He awakens in us a desire to be holy. (Philippians 2:13)

            c. He gives us power to say no to sin.

IV. Our responsibility for holiness.

    A. We must both trust and work to put to death the sinful deeds of the body. (Romans 8:13)

    B. We should not polarize faith and obedience.

    C. Paul learned to be content—he did not just believe for it. (Philippians 4:13)

V. What we must do.

    A. We must commit ourselves to a life of holiness without exception. (1 John 2:1)

    B. We must take all sin seriously. (Song of Solomon 2:15; Luke 16:10)

C. We must take a God-centered view of sin rather than a self-centered view of sin.

D. We must be willing to exercise discipline, which is structured living. (1 Timothy 4:7; 2 Timothy 3:16)

E. We must know that all training is at first characterized by failure. (Proverbs 24:16)

Application questions:

1. How would you defend the importance of holiness?
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2. Why are we responsible for holiness if we are 100% dependent upon God?
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3. What is your action plan for growing in holiness this week? Explain.
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