



Sharing His Divine Nature

The Summary and Synthesis of a
Series on Holiness

The Foundation

- Share His Divine Nature
- Share His Holiness
- Created in His Image
- He is Holy
- We are to be Holy because He is Holy

The Focus of Holiness

- Holiness is not about us.
- It is about God – “You must be holy because I am holy”
- Holiness is not about what we do or how we perform.
- Holiness is about God’s nature and our sharing in that nature.
- Holiness is what God is – “I am holy”
- Holiness is what we choose to pursue – “Pursue peace with everyone, and holiness, for without it no one will see the Lord.”

The Foundation Text

- The creation accounts of Genesis 1-3
- Tell us how and in whose image we were created
- The application texts of 1 Corinthians 11 (hair), Ephesians 5 (husband-wife relations), and 1 Timothy 2 & 1 Peter 3 (dress and adornment) are specifically dependent upon these creation accounts

Characteristics of God's Image

- When God created humanity in His image, He created male humans and female humans. Gender (maleness and femaleness) was a part of God's perfect creation of humanity in His image.
- When God created humanity in His image, the male and female human bodies were not covered or clothed – “the man and his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame.”

The Goal of Holiness

- Since sin, God's instructions and discipline concerning holiness have been intended to return us to our original state in which we perfectly share in His divine nature because we are created in His image.
- Put differently, holiness is not only God's nature, it is also his answer and solution to sin – “These are the promises that enable you to ***share his divine nature*** and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.”

The Opportunity of Holiness

- When God calls us to share in his divine nature of holiness and gives us the instruction and directions needed, he is not simply wanting us to be like him – he is offering the way for us to truly be ourselves.
- We were made holy in the image of God and true fulfillment lies only in our sharing this holiness and living our lives according to our true divine nature.

The Character of Holiness

- Holiness is not relative but it is relevant.
- Holiness is not simply general but particular.
- Holiness is consistent and yet personal.
- The effects of sin are not the same in everyone.
- So while holiness is consistent and based upon the universal divine nature of God, it is also relevant and particular to the individual person.

Aspects of Holiness

- **Positive Aspect**

- Our pursuit of holiness leads us to becoming like God and taking on characteristics of his divine nature
- The positive aspect of holiness is what we do
- Imitation

- **Negative Aspect**

- Our pursuit of holiness leads us to withdraw and separate from all things contrary to God's divine nature
- The negative aspect of holiness is what we don't do
- Separation

Sharing His Divine Nature

- The pursuit of holiness requires change according to the instruction and discipline of God through his Word
- The positive and negative aspects of holiness work together to achieve our required change
 - We change by beginning to do things that make us like God and at the same time separate us from the world around us
 - We change by ceasing to do things that separate us from God and at the same time, by ceasing, we become more like God

Sexuality and Holiness

- Sexuality was created by God
- Sexuality existed before sin
- Gender is essential to fulfilling sex
- Holiness is essential to fulfilling sex
- Sexuality, done according to God's direction, is holy
- God has preserved fulfilling sex within holiness

God's Logic

- The body is a treasure created by God in his image
- Through disobedience, sin entered the world and produced shame about the body
- Through shame sin attacked not only the body but sexuality
- God removed shame by clothing the body and preserving pure sexuality within the privacy of marriage

The Choice

- Just as in the garden with Adam and Eve, we have a choice
- God's way or our way
- How you present yourself with regards to hair, dress, and adornment not only reflects your sexuality (holy or unholy) but also affects your sexuality

The Results

- Clothe yourself in a manner that displays the body—your treasure—and become a frustrated sexual being
- Clothe yourself in a manner that protects the body—your treasure—and you become a fulfilled sexual being

Gender Matters!

- Male human beings are intended to be male in their hair, dress, adornment, and sexuality
- Female human beings are intended to be female in their hair, dress, adornment and sexuality

Hair

- Men are to cut their hair and women are not to cut their hair
- This instruction is part of God's definition of maleness and femaleness and our hair is part of this gender distinction and identification—it is part our sharing his divine nature, holiness
- Further this instruction has to do with our relationship with our mate
- By obeying this instruction we release an element of holiness in both our individual lives and in our marriage relationship

Dress

- Men are not to wear women's clothing
- Women are not to wear men's clothing
- Men are to dress as men in men's clothing
- Women are to dress as women in women's clothing

Things to Avoid

- A focus on the outward appearance
- Elaborate, fashion-conscious hair styles (including the use of gold and pearls)
- Inappropriate and disrespectful clothing
- Expensive clothing
- Gold and pearls

Things to Have

- A focus on beauty that comes from within
- Hair, dress and adornment that are both appropriate and respectful
- The appropriateness is related to God, our gender, our spouse, and our brothers and sisters
- The respectfulness is related to all of the above as well as our body which was created in God's image

Who Is Responsible?

- The Individual
- The Family
- The Church

The Individual

So then, my dear friends, just as you have always obeyed, not only in my presence but even more in my absence, **continue working out your salvation with awe and reverence**, for the one bringing forth in you both the desire and the effort – for the sake of his good pleasure – is God.

- Philippians 2:12-13

The Family

Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.

- Proverbs 22:6

Children, always obey your parents, for this pleases the Lord.

- Colossians 3:20

The Church

Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. **Watch over it** willingly, not grudgingly -- not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God. Don't lord it over the people assigned to your care, but **lead them by your own good example.**

- 1 Peter 5:2-3

Conclusion

I invite you to share God's divine nature.

Pursue holiness!