

PURITY AND HOLINESS

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1. Introduction

One of the main challenges of military life is maintaining healthy relationships and stable families. Constant movement, training away from home, frequently being in stressful situations and stress-related disorders make military life particularly difficult to pursue “Purity and Holiness”.

Defining this subject biblically, and helping to equip colleagues to live pure and holy lives that honor the Lord Jesus Christ, are both key demands of being a Christian in your unit, ship or station.

Our Lord is our model of such a life. As His disciples, we seek to follow Him and to emulate His example of purity and holiness. This is important for all believers in general, but particularly crucial for those in any role of Christian leadership.

This seminar will inspire and equip participants to seek to live a life of purity and holiness. It will delve into these issues with a practical emphasis. The goal is to have every soldier of Christ learn "why" God says what He does on the subject of Purity and Holiness and "how" to joyfully apply this Word to life.

2. Defining Purity and Holiness

Purity is the state of being pure (*Webster College Dictionary*) which is to be free from that which stains, pollutes or weakens. It is the “quality or state of being free from mixture, pollution, or other foreign elements.” It can refer to things such as gold, or people in which it can be ethnic (Philippians 3:5); ceremonial (Leviticus 19:16-33, Luke 2:22); ethical (Proverbs 22:1); or spiritual (1 Timothy 1:5; 4:12).

The Jews of Jesus’ day regarded ceremonial purity as more important than spiritual purity and the Lord Jesus rebuked them for this (Mark 7:3-4; Luke 11:39-40). You and I as Christians should strive more for spiritual purity (Matthew 5:8; James 1:27). Purity is closely related to being chaste. The chaste person is innocent of sexual impurity in desire, imagination, and action (2 Corinthians 11; 2; Titus 2:5).

Holiness on the other hand is the very essence of God. The steadfast love of God, the wonderful mercy of God, His amazing strength, His perfect justice, and awesome glory are qualities that indicate God’s holiness.

In Isaiah 6:3; the angels in heaven cry “*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory.*” (NIV) In Revelation 4:8, the Bible says, “*And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.*” (KJV)

Holiness is the essential nature of God and sets Him apart as God. Holiness in man therefore sets him apart like God is set apart. We are called to be holy. This implies being blameless in the sight of God and not necessarily in the sight of man. In fact the very attribute of holiness in a man can set him up to be blamed for being a fanatic. The state of not being holy unto God

means man will not enjoy the blessing of God's power in their life. Ephesians 1:3-4 says, *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love"* (KJV)

3. Keys to Purity and Holiness

- a. God's Word - What we put in determines what comes out (Psalms 119:11, 147; Galatians 6:7-9).
- b. Reasons - There are better reasons to be pure and holy than impure and unholy (Matthew 5:8, 48).
- c. God's Way - God is not out to spoil our fun. He is out to fill our lives with blessings (1 Timothy 6:17).
- d. God's View - Seeing as God sees brings beauty and fulfillment (1 Timothy 2:3-4).
- e. God's Power - Doing it on my own leads nowhere, fast! (2 Timothy 1:7; Romans 8:14-16).
- f. Friends - Seek out those who will support right decisions (1 Corinthians 15:33).
- g. Accountability - Find a godly older person (same sex) who will cheer and challenge you (Proverbs 13:20; 2 Timothy 2:1-3).
- h. Standards - Understand your weaknesses and create ways to stay on the right path (2 Corinthians 12:2-10).
- i. Commitment - Make the hard decisions in the good times (1 John 5:14-15).

4. Vital steps to becoming holy God's way

- a. Pursue the way of peace (Daniel 4:27; 1 Corinthians 7:1b, 14:33)
- b. Keep the reward of purity and holiness in your focus (Proverbs 11:19)
- c. Seek continually to live a righteous life (Hosea 10:12, Hebrews 1:9)
- d. Know deeply in your heart that God loves you and is not against you (Romans 5:1; 8:31, 35, 37).
- e. Know with certainty that you are going from this life to heaven. Christ has already gone ahead to prepare a place for you there (John 8:32, 36).
- f. Fight and win the war against sin (John 3:2; Acts 10:38; John 8:29).
- g. Embrace the revelation ministry of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:10-12; John 16:12,14; 14:26)

5. Summary/Notes