

Christian Discipleship

Week 4 - Holiness and Discipleship

“Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. 12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.” 1 Peter 2:11-12

Tonight we look at the importance of living a godly life. So often we hear that Christians are just hypocrites. The only convincing response is lives transformed by Jesus - lives that are holy..

1. What is Holiness?

Taken from Greek word meaning set apart, different. Same root as saint, sanctified. It is about quality of our Christian life, how like Jesus we are. It embraces every area of our lives.

“True holiness does not consists merely of believing and feeling, but of doing and bearing. Our tongues, our tempers, our natural passion and inclinations - our conduct as parents and children, ... husbands and wives, rulers and subjects - our dress, our employment of time, our behaviour in business, our demeanour in sickness and health, in riches and poverty..” JC Ryle

It involves how we think (Rom. 12: 2), how we speak (Eph. 4:29), how we act (Rom. 12:1).

Why does it Matter?

God commands it - to set God’s people apart from the world around them (Leviticus 11:44-45).

God intended it for His people from the beginning of time (Ephesians 1:4).

World needs to see it (Matthew 5: 13-16).

What does it mean?

The Bible is very straight and honest about the importance of holiness, and seeking to achieve it. We need to be honest about the danger of sin, and its hold on us (Hebrews 3:12). We must help each other to deal with that sin (Hebrews 3:13). We can be wise in discerning what is right and wrong by asking four questions about what we might do or say or think.

1. Is it helpful--physically, spiritually, and mentally? 1 Corinthians 6:12
2. Does it bring me under its power? 1 Corinthians 6:12
3. Does it hurt other Christians? 1 Corinthians 8:13
4. Does it glorify God? 1 Corinthians 10:31, Matthew 5:16.

“I have had a deep conviction for many years that practical holiness and entire self-consecration to God are not sufficiently attended to by modern Christians in this country. The subject of personal godliness has fallen sadly into the background. The standard of living has become painfully low in many quarters.... Sound doctrine is useless if it not accompanied by a holy life. It is worse than useless: it does positive harm. It is despised by keen-sighted and shrewd men of the world, as an unreal and hollow thing, and brings religion into contempt.” JC Ryle