

Holiness and Attitudes

Holiness is mentioned over 600 times in the Bible. God is trying to tell us something! For every scripture that says God is love, there are at least three scriptures saying God is holy. Holiness is the basic attribute of God, denoting absolute perfection and purity.

DICTIONARY DEFINITIONS OF THE WORD “HOLINESS”

Absolved	Excellent	Inviolable	Respectable	Unassertive
Acquitted	Excused	Irreproachable	Responsible	Unassuming
Anointed	Exemplary	Just	Retiring	Unblemished
Blameless	Exonerated	Long Suffering	Revered	Uncontaminated
Blessed	Extolled	Loyal	Righteous	Unconventional
Blissful	Fair	Lustrous	Sacred	Undeified
Careful	Faithful	Magnificent	Sacrosanct	Unmixed
Cautious	Faultless	Marvelous	Saintly	Unpretentious
Celestial	Flawless	Meek	Sanctified	Unspotted
Chaste	Forgiven	Moderate	Simple	Untainted
Clean	Gentle	Modest	Spiritual	Untarnished
Cleansed	Glorious	Moral	Splendid	Untouchable
Commendable	God-Fearing	Natural	Spotless	Upstanding
Complete	Godly	Noble	Stainless	Utopian
Conscientious	Guarded	Pardoned	Steadfast	Venerated
Consecrated	Guileless	Peculiar	Straight	Vindicated
Constrained	Guiltless	Perfect	Sublime	Virtuous
Decent	Hallowed	Pious	Submissive	Washed
Dedicated	Heavenly	Plain	Timid	Wholesome
Demure	Honest	Praiseworthy	Tolerant	Wise
Devout	Honorable	Proper	Transcendent	Wonderful
Discreet	Humane	Pure	True	Worshipful
Divine	Humble	Purged	Unadorned	Worthy
Ethical	Obedient	Radiant	Unadulterated	Yielding
Exalted	Innocent	Reserved	Unambiguous	

For born again Christians, holiness specifically means “separation from sin and the world, and dedication to God.” Holiness is essential. God will not and cannot accept the unholy.

HEBREWS 12:14

Follow peace with all men; and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.

ROMANS 8:12

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

“Reasonable Service” means it is our responsibility, our obligation; it is expected.

COLOSSIANS 1:28

Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

LEVITICUS 11:44

For I am the Lord your God; you shall therefore sanctify yourselves and ye shall be holy; for I am holy.

There is the family of God and the family of Satan; there is no neutral ground. One family is holy, the other unholy. God's call for separation from an unholy world is explicit!

II CORINTHIANS 6:17

Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord.

LEVITICUS 20:26

And ye shall be holy unto me: for I the Lord am holy, and have severed you from other people, that you should be mine.

ISAIAH 35:8

And a highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called the way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it.

MATTHEW 5:8

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Man can become holy only through divine assistance, primarily the infilling and indwelling of the Holy Ghost. Holiness is maintained by love of God, in being a part of the family of God and not the family of Satan

(the world). Love of God will cause us to want to keep His words, and the Holy Ghost will give us the power to do it.

JOHN 14:15

If ye love me, keep my commandments.

PSALM 97:10

Ye that love the Lord, hate evil.

I JOHN 3:9

Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin.

I JOHN 2:3

Hereby we do know that we love him, if we keep his commandments.

On the other hand:

I JOHN 2:15

If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

ROMANS 6:16

Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death or of obedience unto righteousness.

We must not like or be like the world of sin.

I THESSALONIANS 5:22

Abstain from all appearance of evil.

II CORINTHIANS 7:1

Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

EPHESIANS 4:22-24

That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

EPHESIANS 5:27

That he might present to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

I THESSALONIANS 4:7

For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.

I PETER 1:15–16

But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, be ye holy; for I am holy.

II PETER 3:10–14

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness. Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, herein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Therefore, beloved seeing that ye look for such things, Be diligent that ye may be found of Him in peace, without spot and blameless.

REVELATION 22:27

And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Holiness involves letting the mind, personality, and will of Jesus Christ replace our own. It is displaying the Spirit and living and doing as He would do. It is manifesting the characteristics and traits of Jesus Christ. We cannot do this without the infilling of the Holy Spirit which gives us power to live an overcoming life. It is the Holy Ghost that teaches us and guides us towards all holiness.

HOLINESS INVOLVES FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

THAT GOD WANTS US TO BEAR

1. Love
2. Love is the basic element of our Christian life, the only acceptable motivation for serving God. We are commanded to love Christians, neighbors, enemies. If we do not love our fellow man, then we do not love God. Likewise, if we love the world, then we do not love God. We are to hate the sins of the world, but love the sinner. Love for others will eliminate jealousy, strife, gossip, murmuring and bitterness. Love for God will eliminate worldliness and rebellion. If we do not love God and man, nothing will make us right in the sight of God. The closer to God we become, the more love we will have. "Love is shed abroad in our heart by the Holy Ghost" (Romans 5:5).
3. Joy
4. Joy also comes from the Holy Ghost. Our experience with God is "joy unspeakable and full of glory" (I Peter 1:8). We can have God's joy no matter what happens to us. It is not the same joy that the world gives. It is not dependent on circumstances. It is the joy of the Lord in our salvation. Joy is a weapon we can use and a source of strength in times of trial. "The joy of the Lord is our strength" (Nehemiah 8:10). It is joy that gives strength in times of discouragement. It is an overcomer of temptations (James 1:2). Drawing close to God and entering into his presence will bring perfect joy (Psalms 16:11, Psalms 100).
5. Peace
6. The Holy Ghost gives peace which the world doesn't know; it passes all understanding (Romans 14:17; Philippians 4:7). We can have inner peace no matter what happens (John 14:27). God expects us to have peace with Him, peace with ourselves and peace with other people (Hebrews 12:14, Romans 12:18, Matthew 5:9). Perfect peace comes from focusing our mind on God and trusting Him (Isaiah 26:3). We must learn to rejoice in the Lord, be moderate, be anxious for nothing, and to make our requests known to God through prayer and supplication with thanksgiving (Philippians 4:4-7).
7. Longsuffering and Patience

8. Jesus said our souls were possessed by our patience (Luke 21:19). We bear fruit with patience (Luke 8:15). We run our race with patience (Hebrews 12:1). We obtain promises by faith and patience (Hebrews 6:12, 10:36). Longsuffering comes with meekness, love, a desire for unity, and a desire for peace. Patience comes by the trying of faith and by tribulation (Romans 5:3, James 1:3).
9. Gentleness
10. Gentleness does not mean "weakness." It does mean to be courteous, mannerly, kind, patient, serene, and not harsh, violent, or rough.
11. Goodness
12. Goodness means righteousness, morality, virtue, and excellence. Christ's righteousness is imputed when we have faith in Him.
13. Faith
14. We need faith for salvation, for our Christian walk. It is impossible to please God without faith (Hebrews 11:6). Faith assures us: God will never allow us to be tempted more than we can bear; He will always make a way of escape; prayers will be answered; needs will be supplied; promises will be fulfilled. Faith also means being loyal, true, constant and consistent. God has given every man some measure of faith. "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). Faith is built by listening to the Word of God and reading his promises in the promises of God. It is also built by the testimonies of others and by drawing on our own past experiences with God. Faith can come as a supernatural gift of the Spirit.
15. Meekness
16. Meekness means to be patient, mild and not inclined to anger or resentment. This does not mean weakness or spinelessness. Meekness includes humility, a realization that we are nothing without God and that we must have His help.
17. Temperance
18. Temperance is self-restraint, self-control, and moderation.

HOLINESS INVOLVES

CHRISTIAN ATTITUDES

EPHESIANS 4:31–32

Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another.

Proper attitude towards God and other people will cause holiness to be manifested in our life. Wrong attitudes are the first signs of backsliding and are inevitable components of hypocrisy.

1. Love
2. Love is the basic attitude that distinguishes true Christians from the world. Love is the ultimate test of true Christianity (John 13:34–35). It is the fulfilling of the law (Leviticus 19:18, Romans 13:10, James 2:8). Love is the force that will cause us to keep God's commandments (John 14:15, 23). Love must be the basis of all actions and relationships. Love never fails (I Corinthians 13:8). We will not fail God or each other if we let love have its perfect work. Love for our fellow man means we must be patient, kind, mannerly, not envious, not egotistical, not boastful, not easily provoked, slow to think evil of someone, and pleased only with what is good. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things (I Corinthians 13:4–7).
3. Bitterness
4. Bitterness is something sharp, disagreeable, distasteful, harsh, severe, resentful, or vehement. It produces piercing remarks and unpleasant language. It is never appropriate.
5. Wrath
6. Wrath is violent anger, rage, or indignation, and the word strongly suggests a desire to avenge or punish. We must learn to control our feelings. Wrath cannot be controlled through our own strength, but through prayer and seeking God.
7. Anger
8. Anger is a feeling of extreme displeasure that usually results from injury or opposition. If anger is allowed to go uncontrolled, it usually manifests itself as a desire to lash out at someone or something. Anger that causes us to hurt someone or to sin in any other way is wrong. Anger that we carry in our heart and nurse into

a grudge is wrong. Anger without a cause is wrong.

9. Clamour

10. Clamour is a noisy shouting, outcry, uproar, or insistent demand. It is always having complaints, clamouring to get one's way. It is condemned by the Scriptures.

11. Malice

12. Malice is an active ill will, a desire to hurt others. It takes pleasure in causing someone to suffer or in seeing that person suffer. It is usually the result of hate, which is as bad as murder in the eyes of God (I John 3:15). As stated above, we should hate sin but not the sinner. A Christian should never rejoice in iniquity, but rather in the truth (I Corinthians 13:6).

13. Envy and Jealousy

14. These emotions are closely associated with bitterness, wrath, malice and strife. Envy and strife are capable of producing any kind and every kind of evil (James 3:16). Envy and jealousy consist of a grudging of possessions or accomplishments. They often include spite, covetousness, and suspicion. Envy is a work of the flesh and will keep us out of heaven (Galatians 5:21, James 4:5).

15. Forgiveness

16. Forgiveness is based on love and involves bearing the cost of someone else's mistake. It means giving up our rights in certain situations and ignoring certain things even when we know we are correct. It means swallowing our pride and asking someone else to forgive us even when we feel they should be asking our pardon instead. It means turning the other cheek (Matthew 5:39), literally and symbolically. Forgiveness includes forgetting. Jesus taught that God would forgive us only as much as we forgive others (Matthew 6:12, 14-15, 18:35).

17. A Root of Bitterness

18. People harboring bitterness are often murmurers and complainers. They are uncooperative and self-willed and cannot accept correction without becoming angry. They are busybodies, sowing discord among the brethren, and they are talebearers, causing problems everywhere they go. A person can be defiled by just a root of bitterness. A root of bitterness is a source of bitterness in someone's life. It is something in the heart which causes all of the outward manifestations which were identified above. From this, many types of fruit come forth, none of which are produced by the

Spirit. The root of bitterness could be a grudge against someone, jealousy over a person or situation, or just something that has never been surrendered to God. When bad attitudes begin to manifest themselves, we need to check our hearts for the source, cut it out and get rid of it. Just a little root of bitterness is like a cancer that will grow and destroy us spiritually. It must be dealt with and gotten rid of. We need to avoid gossip, envy, hatred and strife.

19. Nothing Shall Offend
20. The result of loving God and His Word is peace. Obedience to God will keep us from being offended. Scriptures teach we must not be offended, nor are we to offend others. Nothing will be a stumbling block to those who love the Word of God. Regardless of the circumstances, we cannot allow our feelings to be hurt. We must forgive people even before they ask and even if they never ask.
21. When Rebuked
22. We are to obey those who have the rule over us and we should never think we are too great or too spiritual to be corrected or rebuked. The church is a system of God's government. It is there to help us, just as a parent teaches/corrects their child so they will grow properly. We must be humble and obedient. Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft in the eyes of the Lord. If we are going down the wrong path, it is the shepherd's responsibility to warn us.
23. Murmuring and Complaining
24. The bible says murmurers and complainers are ungodly. If something is bothering us, we are to go to God in prayer. We are instructed to be content in whatever situation we find ourselves in.
25. Busybodies
26. A busybody is someone inquisitive about other people's affairs, a meddler in the affairs of others, a person busy with matters that do not concern them.
27. Pride and a Proud Look
28. God hates a proud look. He resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Pride is what caused Satan to fall, and it will cause everyone who has it to fall. We must be careful not to become self-righteous and critical of others. This is pride and hypocrisy. Pride must not be allowed to enter our hearts because of our holiness standards or our knowledge of truth. The more successful we are spiritually, the more the devil would like to make us proud. We

must have humility, and not false humility either. The way to eliminate pride and a proud look is to pray; to fall down on our face, prostrate before God; to weep, confess our sins and realize our unworthiness of enjoying God's mercies (This is not counted in minutes but hours). We should not get up until our spirit is broken, and we should tell no one of the matter.

29. Evil Speaking

30. This comes from an evil heart, much of which stems from jealousy and it includes:

a. Tale bearing and Gossip

b. Tale bearing/gossip is one of the most vicious sins and is Satan's primary tool for destroying the Church from within. It destroys confidence in people, harms the innocent, and hinders the repentant. It splits churches, discourages seasoned saints, and disillusiones new saints. We are to speak evil of no one, especially our brothers and sisters in the Lord (Titus 3:2, James 4:11). Tale bearing/gossip means telling things of a personal, intimate, or sensational nature. It includes spreading rumors that could damage someone, and it includes backbiting, which means telling scandalous things about someone. It not only includes lying about someone or spreading unverified rumors about someone, but it even includes telling facts of a personal nature that the gossipier has no business revealing. Telling a fact can be tale bearing when it is told as gossip to one who does not need to know about it. We should not listen to gossip of any kind.

c. Sowing Discord

d. Sowing discord is one of the seven things that are listed as abominations (Proverbs 6:19). Abominations are things God hates, and they will keep us out of heaven (Revelation 21:8). Sowing discord involves going from person to person causing dislike, distrust, and division by telling confidential things or by constant criticism.

e. Swearing

f. We are not to swear for any reason (James 5:12, Matthew 5:34). To swear means to assert as true, or to promise while under oath. An oath is a formal calling of God as a witness. We are not to swear to anything or bind ourselves by an oath to do a certain thing or to join a certain group. When called upon by law to swear to something, we can simply say, "I affirm." To

affirm means to state positively, to confirm or to assert as valid. We do not swear because we cannot control the things we would swear upon.

- g. Taking the Name of the Lord in Vain **EXODUS 20:7**Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain.
- h. Misuse of the Lord's name refers to all profane, vain (useless), trivial, irreverent uses. It also includes any abuse of His name in false religions and witchcraft. The right use of God's name is in praise, prophecy, preaching, teaching, worship, meditation and prayer. There is even a blessing for those who think upon His name (Malachi 3:16). It is never to be used as a byword. It is irreverent.
- i. Using Slang Words:
- j. They are watered down versions of curse words. If it is wrong to use the curse word, it is just as wrong to use the slang word that represents it. (i.e. heck instead of hell, darn instead of damn, gosh or golly instead of God, Gees, instead of Jesus, etc.).
- k. Filthy Communication: **COLOSSIANS 3:8**Put off... ..filthy communication out of your mouth.**EPHESIANS 4:29**Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth.
- l. We are temples of the Holy Ghost. Dirty jokes, dirty words, and dirty actions cannot be allowed to come from us. Words that are suggestive of something indecent should not come from the lips of a Christian. We are not to use foolish talking or jesting (Ephesians 5:4). Foolish talking means idle, stupid talk. Jestng refers to obscene jesting, something vulgar. Christians should not take part in smutty, insinuating, sex oriented stories, jokes and actions.
- m. Cursing **ROMANS 12:14**Bless them which persecute you, bless, and curse not.**JAMES 3:10**Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.
- n. This refers to putting a curse on someone. A Christian is suppose to love at all times. When someone does something against us personally, we are to ask God to help them, and we must pray for them in love.
- o. Reviling
- p. Revilers will not inherit the kingdom of God (I Corinthians 6:10).

They are not to even be associated with by a Christian (I Corinthians 5:11). To revile or to rail means to abuse using words. It can mean to scold or to use harsh, insolent, or abusive language. There are absolutely no circumstances in which we are justified in reviling someone, even if we have been treated wrong or unjustly judged. The Holy Ghost has been given to us to help us overcome our own fleshly emotions. We are always to bless, never fight back.

- q. Lying and Bearing False Witness:
- r. We are not to lie (Exodus 20:16, Mark 10:16). All liars will be destroyed (Revelation 21:8, 21:27, Proverbs 19:5). God hates a liar and a false witness! (Proverbs 6:16–19). We are to keep our word even if it hurts us (Psalm 15:4). To lie means to make a statement knowing that it is false, especially with the intent to deceive. Lying includes deliberately giving a false impression or confusing the issue in order to evade the truth. We can lie by withholding information which is vital for the hearer to correctly understand the situation—in other words, hiding a part of the truth that needs to be told. We can lie by actions as well as words if we deliberately deceive, mislead or create a false impression. It does not matter how small a lie is, to whom it is told, or for what purpose it is told. A lie is a lie. Lying is wrong even when it is intended to protect someone.
- s. Idle Words:
- t. We will be judged by our words (Matthew 12:36–37). We need to be extremely careful what we say.

ATTITUDES ARE THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF HOLINESS

A person with a humble, teachable attitude and a genuine desire to live for God can always be led to greater truth. Inward holiness will lead to outward holiness, but the reverse is never true. A bad attitude will keep us out of heaven just as surely as any violation of outward holiness or sinful act that we may physically commit. We need to check ourselves

continually for pride, murmuring, sowing discord, bitterness, wrath and other evil attitudes that will destroy our holiness.

Unless we let God be in control, we are prisoners of our desires, appetites and passions. It is essential that we have the power of the Holy Ghost at work in our life. Without the Holy Ghost, it is impossible for us to become holy or to maintain holiness.