

STUDY IV– PRINCIPLE OF PURITY

Purity (Holy Body) – We're One Body in Christ, called from the world to be holy for God is holy.

Introduction:

In this session, we will cover **purity**. Purity derives from **God being holy**.

God is **inherently holy**, which means He is **perfect** and **pure**. God's holiness makes Him otherworldly, separated from His creation. God's creation does not **possess inherent** holiness. God must declare someone or something holy:

- Moses and the ground – Exodus 3:5
- Tithe of the produce – Leviticus 27:30
- Sabbath day – Exodus 31:14
- God's people – I Peter 2:9

Christ's Body, the church according to God's covenant, was called out by His Spirit, to be holy, to live separate from the world and worldliness:

- Be holy for I am holy (I Peter 1:16)
- Live godly (Titus 2:12)
- Be separate from the world (2 Corinthians 6:17)
- Keep yourself pure (2 Timothy 2:20-21)

How can Christ's Body maintain its holiness in a sinful culture?

APPLICATION OF PURITY

Study Scripture: v5. so, we, though many, are one body in Christ, and **individually members** of one another.

In verse **five**, the key phrase is "**individually** members of one another." The application of this verse is Christ followers have been **called out** from the world, to be part of Christ's Body, united to belong with one another to live **holy** lives before God and with one another. Your sin is an indirect sin against the members of Christ's Body according to I Corinthians 6:15-17:

I Corinthians 6:15. Don't you realize that **your bodies** are parts **of Christ**? Should a man **take his body**, which is **part of Christ**, and **join it to a prostitute**? **Never!** **16.** And don't you realize that if a man **joins himself** to a **prostitute**, he becomes **one body** with her? For the Scriptures say, "The two are united into one." **17.** But the person who is **joined** to the Lord is **one spirit** with him. (NLT)

- Your body is part of Christ's Body
- You cannot join Christ's Body to a prostitute or _____
- Your union outside of Christ will affect Christ's Body – I Corinthians 12:26

We're called to **pursue** holiness (Hebrews 12:14) and **perfect** holiness (2 Corinthians 7:1). What does it mean to pursue and perfect holiness? It means to be **pure** (sinless), which reflects the **perfection** of God.

We are called to sin not (I John 2:1). This means all sins. We must not make a difference between little sins and big sins. All sins are an affront to God's holiness. This means a little lie is a big lie in contrast to God's **holiness**.

Pursuing holiness takes individual **training** in **godliness** (I Timothy 4:8) and being **accountable** to the members of the Body about your sin struggles (James 5:16).

When we **do not pursue** holy living, godliness, we're disobeying God's decrees, rebelling against God's authority, and rejecting God's love.

Here are **four requirements** to live by, which will help you train you to live a godly lifestyle:

- **Consecration** – set yourself apart each day in devotion to God. Devotion to God conveys the idea of a personal **attitude** toward God that results in **actions** that are pleasing to God. You **walk** with God; you **enjoy** your relationship with God and desire to **please** Him. Devotion should **translate** into **conformity** into the holiness of God (Leviticus 20:7-8).
- **Conviction** – study God's covenant. As you're reading the Holy Spirit will **convict** you of His truth. The Scriptures state, the truth shall set you free from sin (John 8:31-36). Once you realize God's truth you embrace the conviction of sin, which comes by the Holy Spirit (John 16:8-9). You **repent** (change your mind) with **godly sorrow** (you see sin as God sees sin – 2 Corinthians 7:10) and you turn to God to receive His grace which teaches us how to live godly lives (Titus 2:12).
- **Conformity** – you live out God's truth with **conviction** (remorseful about sin). Your pursuit of holiness is not an **activity**; it is an **attitude** toward sin and God. You work daily on putting God's word in your heart (mind, emotions, and desire) that you may not sin against Him (Psalms 119:11).
- **Confession** – you will never be perfect, but you continue to **confess** your sins, **repent** from your sins, so you can be cleansed in your soul and conscience from sin and remain face to face with God in fellowship with Him (I John 1:5).

I want to encourage you to study the following questions and be prepared to go deep to understand the meaning of maintaining the Body of Christ pure and walking in holiness daily.

Study Questions:

1. What happens when we **genuinely** see God's holiness and our sinfulness?

References: Isaiah 6:1-8, Acts 2:37-39,

2. Why does God declare someone or something holy?

References: Exodus 31:14, Leviticus 27:30, Exodus 3:5, Exodus 19:4-6

3. How do you walk in God's holiness?

References: I Peter 1:16, Leviticus 20:7-8, 2 Corinthians 6:17, Romans 12:1-2

4. What does perfecting holiness mean?

References: 2 Corinthians 7:1, Psalms 119:11, John 15:1-8

5. How do you hold members accountable to live holy lives?

References: Galatians 6:1-3, 1 Timothy 5:20, James 5:16, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Matthew 18:17-18, 1 Corinthians 5:11

Actions to take: How will you be intentional about walking in holiness?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Verse to Ponder: 1 Peter 1:16. For Scriptures (covenant) say, "You must be holy for I am holy."

