

## Discipleship Series for New Believers

### Lesson 6: God's Holiness

By Kristin Bone

#### **God's Holiness-Why**

It is beneficial as a new believer to understand the holiness of the Lord. I Peter 1:15-16 states, "...but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy.'" If new believers understand the holiness of God and what true holiness looks like in the life of the believer, then I believe as the Holy Spirit draw them they will begin to hunger for holiness in their own lives.

There are so many misrepresentations of holiness out in the world today that, I believe, can turn people from desiring holiness in their lives. Some people think holiness is the kind of clothes you wear and the fact that you abstain from swearing, drinking, or having premarital sex. Some people believe holiness is outdated and that, as more enlightened and modern believers today, we do not need it anymore. Still others believe the only way to attain holiness is to completely withdraw from people and spend all their time communicating with God to the neglect of the hurting and lost souls around them. These different messages can be really confusing to a new believer. This is why I think it is so important right from the beginning to build a solid foundation about the holiness of God, what holiness is, and how true holiness will manifest itself in the believer's life.

#### **God's Holiness-How**

The first key to understanding the holiness of God and holy living is to look into the life of Jesus. We learn from Hebrews 1:3 that when we see Jesus we are seeing what God is like because Jesus is God. It can be seen from this scripture that Jesus is the express image of God. So when we look at the characteristics of Jesus we are seeing the characteristics of the Father.

When we look at Jesus' life, we see that He was holy. When He was here on earth, He never sinned. Hebrews 4:14-15 says, "Seeing that we have a great High Priest who had passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin." This demonstrates to us one way in which Jesus was holy.

Another reason Jesus was holy while He was on this earth was that Jesus was completely set apart to do the will of His Father. John 6:38 shows Jesus saying, "For I have come down from heaven not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."

There are two principles that can be seen in the life of Jesus from the above scriptures that can teach us what holiness is and what it should look like in our Christian lives. I Peter 1:16 says, "Be holy for I am holy." Since God is holy, He wants us to be holy like him. The first principle we see from the life of Jesus is that He did not sin. Obviously, it is not possible for us

to never sin again, but daily we should make an effort, like Jesus, that when we are tempted to abstain from sin. Sin separates us from God, and as we attempt to keep ourselves from the sins we always used to do, we become more and more like Jesus. Therefore, we live our lives continually in greater holiness because Jesus is holy.

The second principle that can be seen from the life of Jesus is that He was completely set apart to do the will of His Father. This also gives us a picture of what holiness is. Holiness is being set apart from the way the world (unsaved people) does things. When we give our lives to Jesus, we become new. We now have life and peace where death was. Therefore, instead of being worried about whether we are going to get a promotion at work, or if we should have a bigger house, or whether we are keeping up with the fashions that are trendy, we set ourselves apart by giving our lives to serve Jesus. Now we concern ourselves with how we can be a good example of Jesus to our boss. As Christians, we know God will provide the clothes we need, so we can spend our time praying for people and growing closer to God instead of trying to keep up with fashion trends. Just like Jesus, we should do what God desires us to do instead of what we might want to do all of the time.

Holiness is not merely what one looks like on the outside or what you wear. It penetrates deeper than that and deals with the issues of your heart. Peter addressed this in I Peter 3:3 where it states..."Do not let your adornment be merely outward – arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel – rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God."