

INTRODUCTION

For the last two weeks, we will be looking at holiness. This is the mindset we want to have as Christians.

VIDEO CLIP

John Bevere's sermon entitled *Holiness is a Doorway to Intimacy with God*.

There was a lot in that little clip...

- Many think of holiness as something unattainable
- Many grew up with a list of rules and regulations
- Positional and behavioral holiness

POSITIONAL HOLINESS

Ephesians explains what happens in our lives as Christians.

- ...⁴ just as he chose us in Christ to be *holy and blameless*. This does not mean that we do not sin, but it does mean that in Christ, our sins are forgiven.
- ⁵ He destined us for *adoption as his children through Jesus Christ*. We are His children. He loves us unconditionally. We now have a place as an heir.
- ⁷ "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses." We don't have to earn forgiveness.

2 Corinthians further explains our position as Christians, "*For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, 'I will live in them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.'*"

BEHAVIOR FOLLOWS BELIEF

As John Bevere mentioned at the end of his clip, 1 Peter 1:15, "*...as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct...*"

This is where people can get a little scared, especially if you grew up in a church that had a lot of rules to follow in order to be good Christians.

That isn't what holiness is. So what is it?

- It's aligning our behavior with our belief
- We believe in Jesus Christ, so do we act like it?
- God says we are holy, so does our conduct match that?

It is not a list of rules, but a continual conversation with the Holy Spirit, letting him nudge us and convict us when we do not line up with scripture.

FOR US TODAY

How aware you are of the Holy Spirit's presence in your life.

- How much space do you give to the Holy Spirit? How much of your life have you given to God and how much of it is your own?
- Are there places in our lives you don't want the Holy Spirit meddling in? I'll listen to God when it comes to X, but not when it comes to Y. I'm going to make my own decisions here.
- What are you letting into your life? What are you watching, what are you reading, what are you looking at on the Internet, whose voices take priority?
- Where do you need to make more room?