

# “Be Holy, For I Am Holy”

Lesson 3: The Grace Of God And Our Holiness



**Discovering God's Word**  
Bible Study Series

Be Holy, For I Am Holy”

## Lesson 3: The Grace Of God And Our Holiness

Learn that God created people holy, that people have chosen to become unholy, about God's plan to make people holy again, and how God's grace is essential to holiness

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### Discovering God’s Word Bible Study Series

**Study Number:** DGW123

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**My plea:** It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God’s word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God’s word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God’s instructions.

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“Be Holy, For I Am Holy”

# Lesson 3:

## The Grace Of God And Our Holiness

“Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; 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’” (1 Peter 1:13-16).

The Christian’s life is expected to be different from the ways of the world – and from the ways in which he/she lived prior to becoming a Christian. The life of a Christian is a holy life that is patterned after God’s holiness!

To be holy is to be separate or set apart. In the spiritual sense, it refers to our responsibility to be separate from the ways of the world (the ways that are common, profane, and sinful) in order to be entirely devoted to God! The standard that must be used to determine our holiness is God (who is perfectly holy), and the message that He has revealed to mankind.

But, how can we be holy after we have sinned? The Bible teaches, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). How could we ever be restored to a place of friendship

with the perfectly holy God after we have sinned? And, if we could ever be restored to a place of friendship with God, what would this mean for our lives?

The purpose of this lesson is to consider that God created us as holy beings, to learn about and appreciate God’s eternal plan of redemption, and to evaluate what God’s grace should mean for our own holiness!

### *We Were Created Holy*

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Before we can learn about how God’s grace makes it possible for us to be made holy *again*, we have to first come to an understanding that our being unholy was not God’s fault. God created us entirely holy. However, each one has chosen to rebel against the holy ways of God (thereby committing sin). And, this sin carries eternal consequences.

### **We were born sinless**

When we were born into this world, were we born pure or sinful? There is a large segment of the religious world today that will claim that we were already sinners whenever we entered the world. They claim that we have inherited our sin – that it has been passed down from the time of Adam and Eve! Therefore, there was never a time in which we were ever innocent and holy!

However, the Bible (despite the claims made to the contrary) never teaches the doctrine of original (inherited) sin (also known as total hereditary depravity)! Now, this is *not* to say that those who advocate this doctrine do not use certain Scriptures to attempt to prove that it is true. Yet, the passages that are used do not actually teach what they are said to teach! Instead, as you consider the entirety of the Divine revelation and rightly divide the Scriptures, you discover that God has given each individual free will and has not arranged a system in which we enter the world as sinners – condemned before we start!

Consider some passages that disprove the doctrine of inherited sin (though these are only a few of the passages we could consider).

**(1) Ezekiel 18:20:** “The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.”

This passage is a direct contradiction to the things that are taught by the advocates of inherited sin. Each individual is spiritually responsible for his/her own sin – and not for the sins of his/her forefathers! Yet, the inherited sin position claims that sin has been passed down throughout the generations from Adam to the present time.

**(2) Matthew 18:1-4:** “At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, ‘Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?’ Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.’”

When the question was asked, “Who then is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?,” Jesus responded by indicating that it is little children – and those who would be converted to be like little children. Think about what Jesus has just said (as He teaches a lesson about humility) – and the implications of this teaching to the subject of inherited sin! If children were born in sin, why would He instruct others to be converted and become like little sinners? The truth is that Jesus instructed them to be converted and be holy like little children (who are completely holy)!

**(3) Romans 5:12:** “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.”

This text (Romans 5:12-21) is a passage used by “original sin” advocates to teach their false doctrine. However, notice that whatever this passage teaches is prefaced by verse 12! This verse clearly teaches us that death (spiritual death) spread to all men *because all sinned!* Death did not spread because they had inherited their sin. Instead, death spread as a result of their decision to commit sin!

So, these passages help us to understand that we were born entirely holy in the sight of God! We entered the world in a state of being entirely separated from all that is evil, wicked, and sinful – and entirely in the favor of God! He has given each one personal responsibility and accountability. Therefore, we are each responsible for our own actions and not for the decisions made by others!

## **All have sinned**

Still, the Bible teaches us that all have sinned. Romans 3:23 says, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” That is, everyone who has reached an age of personal accountability (an age at which we can decide between right and wrong for ourselves), has made the decision to sin (with the exception of Jesus Christ, Hebrews 4:15). Since sin is contrary to the way of God (1 John 3:4), it is the way of darkness and takes us out of fellowship with our holy God (1 John 1:5-7).

But, how does sin work? James 1:14-15 helps us to understand. It says, “But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.” Sin results whenever we are drawn away and enticed by our own fleshly desires. Then, when we act to fulfill those fleshly desires in ways that are contrary to the instructions of the Lord, we sin. So, as the result of choosing to fulfill our own personal desires rather than fulfilling the instructions of God, we no longer live holy lives (separated from sin and devoted to God)! Therefore, we are separated from this holy God (Isaiah 59:1-2)!

## **The consequences of sin**

James 1:15 and Romans 6:23 teach us that the wages of sin is death. James 1:15 said that sin “when it is full-grown, brings forth death.” Romans 6:23 says, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” This refers to spiritual death (separation from God). While we live (if we are living in our sins), we are separated from fellowship and friendship with God (spiritual death). For instance, 1 Timothy 5:6 says, “But she who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives.”

Then, if we die while we are in our sins, we will experience the “second death.” Revelation 21:8 says, “But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.” The “second death” refers to the eternal separation from God that those who die in their sins will experience. Recall (from lesson 2) the language of the following passages that indicate this eternal separation from God.

Matthew 7:21-23 speaks regarding individuals who professed Jesus as Lord. Yet, they had not been doing the will of the Father. Notice what they will be told (according to verse 23): “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!” In Matthew 25:41, you should notice the same sort of language – as Jesus will tell those who will have been judged to be unfaithful to Him, “Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.” 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 discusses the Day “when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.”

All of these passages point to an eternal separation from God. This place of eternal separation from God is a place the Bible calls Hell! This place is described as being: (1) A lake that burns with fire and brimstone (Revelation 21:8), (2) a place of everlasting fire that has been prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41), (3) a place of everlasting (never-ending) punishment (Matthew 25:46), and (4) a place in which their worm does not die and the fire is never quenched (Mark 9:42-48).

Then, not only do you need to understand the place of punishment God has prepared for those who live for sin, but you also need to understand that you forfeit the opportunity to spend eternity in Heaven with Him (a place that is magnificently described in Revelation 21:1-22:5)!

## **Sin is a problem we cannot solve by ourselves!**

We have each decided to live in a way that is contrary to God’s ways and His nature! Therefore, we have each lived in a way that is deserving of eternal spiritual death in Hell fire. Since eternal spiritual death is what we all deserve for sinning, there is nothing that we can do (of ourselves) to be reconciled to God and be made holy in His sight again! Remember Romans 6:23 say, “For the wages of sin is death...”

The only way we could be saved from the consequences of our sins is if God would provide a way by which we could be made holy in His sight once more. Thanks be to God that He has provided us this great opportunity through Jesus Christ! Romans 6:23 continues, “...but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

## ***God’s Grace To Save Us From Sin***

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Oh, how miserable a condition we would be in without God! We would be hopelessly lost in our sins and destined to spend eternity in the everlasting torments of Hell. However, the Bible does *not* just tell us about the consequences of our sins. The Bible also tells us about the love, grace, and mercy of God that works to save us from our sins and give us eternal salvation in Heaven!

### **God’s eternal plan of redemption**

Thanks be to God that He had a plan that would provide the remedy for sin. God, according to His manifold wisdom had a plan of redemption in His mind from eternity (before He ever created the world) that would be accomplished through His Son, Jesus Christ! Ephesians 3:8-11 speaks of this eternal plan of God. Specifically, notice verse 11: “according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.” 1 Peter 1:20-21 also references this eternal plan of God. It says, “He indeed was foreordained before the foundation

of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.” God knew the only things that could appease His wrath and bring about the forgiveness of sins was the sacrifice of the sinless Son of God (who was tempted in all of the same ways we are tempted, yet, did not commit sin – Hebrews 4:15)!

God’s plan provided all spiritual blessings to be made available in Jesus Christ. You can read Ephesians 1:3-14 and realize that these spiritual blessings include the forgiveness of sins, the adoption as children of God, and an eternal inheritance in Heaven. You should also notice that those who would be “in Christ” were expected to be holy and without blame before God! Verse 4 says, “just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.”

God, through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, would make it possible for those who were once alienated from God to be reconciled to Him and made to be holy in His sight once more. Consider Colossians 1:19-23: “For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight — if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.”

Now, it is important to recognize that God’s plan of redemption involves two parts: God’s part and man’s part. God has done for us what we could not do for ourselves (in providing us an opportunity to be forgiven of our sins and be restored to a place of friendship with Him). But, He has given us things that we must do in order to be saved (things which demonstrate our dependence upon Him).

## **God’s part in salvation**

God sent His only begotten Son to be the ransom sacrifice. God loved mankind so much that He did not want mankind to experience the eternal consequences of his sin! 1 Timothy 2:4 says that God “desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” 2 Peter 3:9 tells us that God is “not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” So, He sent His only begotten Son to the earth to provide the sacrifice that was necessary to ransom mankind from his sin (John 3:16)! Jesus Christ willingly left Heaven to come to earth, He lived a sinless life, He endured great sufferings at the hands of evil men, He was crucified on the cross (having nails driven into His hands and His feet), He was buried, He rose from the dead, and He has ascended into Heaven!

Consider how Romans 5:6-11 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 describe God’s work to reconcile mankind to Himself through Jesus Christ, thereby appeasing His own wrath. Romans 5:6-11 says, “For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.”

Similarly, 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 demonstrates that it is only through Jesus that mankind could be reconciled to God. It says, “Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.”

Our past sins, through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, can now be entirely removed from God’s

mind (Hebrews 8:12; Acts 3:19)! Our sins, which had separated us from our holy God (1 John 1:5-6), can be covered with Jesus' blood and we can be restored to a place of fellowship with God! Consequently, we are given the opportunity (through Jesus) to spend eternity in Heaven when life on this earth is over!

So, we can be saved by the grace of God! Notice how Ephesians 2:1-3 describes the fact that we were once spiritually dead, when we lived in our trespasses and sins. It says, "And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others."

We were living in a way that made us children of wrath (subject to the wrath of the Almighty God). We were living according to our own desires rather than the desires of God! However, this text informs us that God has made it possible for us to be spiritually alive – even though we had once been dead in our trespasses and sins!

Then, verses 4-10 go on to describe how God's great love has been shown to us through Jesus Christ in providing His mercy and grace. It says, "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

This passage speaks of both the grace and the mercy of God. God's grace is shown in that He gives us what we do *not* deserve (i.e. eternal life in Heaven). God's mercy is shown in that He does *not*

give us what we *do* deserve (i.e. eternal punishment in Hell). Furthermore, this text indicates that there are no works that we can do to merit (earn, deserve) our salvation; but, that our salvation is the gift of God. Remember, we earned eternal punishment in Hell. It is only through Jesus Christ that we can experience eternal life in Heaven (Romans 6:23).

## Our part in salvation

While it is true that we cannot do anything to earn our salvation, God *does* require that we be obedient to His instructions in order to be saved. Therefore, let's focus now on our God-given responsibilities in salvation. Remember, those who do not *obey* God are the ones who will be eternally separated from Him (Matthew 7:21-23; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

Jesus Christ is the author of eternal salvation to all who *obey* Him (Hebrews 5:9). Furthermore, James says that we are justified by works – and *not* by faith only (James 2:14-26). Clearly, God says that we must *obey* His commandments in order to be saved. Yet, doing these things does *not* earn our salvation. Instead, it is simply obedience to Him (fulfilling the requirements He has placed on salvation). So, what does God require of us in order to be saved?

God has given very clear instructions throughout the Bible as to what we must do in order to become Christians, be forgiven of our sins, and be saved eternally. He has said that we must: **(1) Hear God's word.** If you are going to be obedient to the gospel of Christ, you must first hear the gospel's message. Romans 10:17 says that "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." You must hear about what God has done through Jesus Christ so that you can be saved and hear what He requires you to do in order to be saved.

**(2) Believe.** "But without faith it is impossible to please Him [God], for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6). Although mentally believing certain facts about God and Christ are not enough to be saved (by themselves), God does require this mental assent. For instance, Jesus said, "Therefore I said to

you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins” (John 8:24).

**(3) Repent of your sins.** You must put your old ways of sin to death (as taught in Ephesians 4:22-24 and Colossians 3). Repentance is central to this. In repentance, you determine to turn away from the sinful things you have previously been living for in order to live your life entirely for God. Acts 17:30 says that God “now commands all men everywhere to repent.”

**(4) Confess Jesus Christ.** God requires that you confess Jesus Christ with your mouth. Romans 10:9-10 says, “that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” An example of this confession is found in Acts 8:37, when the Ethiopian (prior to being baptized) confessed, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

**(5) Be baptized.** To be baptized is to be immersed in water (see Acts 8:38-39 and Romans 6:3-4). This immersion in water is plainly said to be necessary for the salvation from sins. Jesus said, “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:16). Also, Acts 2:38 records the command, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins....”

**(6) Remain faithful.** At this point (after obeying these commandments), you become a child of God and are forgiven of your sins (being made pure and holy in the sight of God once again). Then, you have the responsibility of being faithful to God throughout your life. In Revelation 2:10, Jesus instructed those who had become Christians previously, “...Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

Continued faithfulness involves many things, including the responsibility to be holy as God is holy (1 Peter 1:15-16). Continued faithfulness is necessary because it is possible to fall from the grace of God once you have been saved by it. Galatians 5:4 says, “You have become estranged from Christ, you

who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.” The Galatians had previously become Christians. Yet, Paul said that they had fallen from God’s grace. Remember, sin separates us from our holy God (Isaiah 59:1-2). This is just as true after we become Christians as it is before we become Christians (remember 1 John 1:5-7)!

## ***What God’s Grace Should Mean To Us***

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Now that we have been observing the grace of God, what should this grace that God has shown to us mean? How should it translate in the way we live our lives? Here are some points to remember. (1) We chose to pursue our own selfish desires rather than maintain holiness in the sight of God when we sinned. (2) The result of our sin meant separation from our holy God – and put us on the path that leads to eternal punishment in Hell (the second death). (3) God provided the perfect sacrifice (in Jesus Christ) to ransom us from our sins, providing us the opportunity to live eternally with Him in Heaven instead of being sentenced to eternal destruction in Hell. (4) Now, we have the responsibility of obeying His instructions in order that we might gain access to and enjoy the blessings provided by His grace! Surely, such love that has been shown toward us ought to provoke the desire within us to live in a way that is entirely pleasing in His sight (according to His standard of holiness)! Let’s consider what the Bible teaches concerning this.

### **Ephesians 4:1**

Please realize that the book of Ephesians can be divided into two main sections. The first section (chapters 1-3) discusses the eternal plan of God to redeem mankind from His sin, demonstrating that we can be saved by the grace of God and have access to all spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus. The second section (chapters 4-6) discusses the responsibilities that those who are in Christ have to living in a way that pleases the God who has saved them by His rich grace.



So, as Paul begins this second section (regarding proper Christian living), he does so by instructing the Ephesian Christians, “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called” (Ephesians 4:1). Given the high calling with which those who are Christians have been called, each Christian has the responsibility to conduct himself/herself in a particular way. The call with which we have been called is the gospel (2 Thessalonians 2:14). This is the great message of salvation through Jesus Christ we have been discussing!

Therefore, how could those who have obeyed the call of the gospel to become recipients of all the spiritual blessings in Jesus Christ continue to live their lives in sin? Of course, this instruction indicates that there is a particular way in which Christians are expected to conduct their lives now that they do enjoy the blessings that are in Christ. In fact, Paul goes on to explain many of the ways in which the Christian is expected to conduct his/her life from chapter 4 through chapter 6 of Ephesians. Also notice a similar instruction in 1 Thessalonians 2:12: “that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.”

## **2 Corinthians 5:14-15**

This passage says, “For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.” This passage demonstrates the magnitude of Christ’s love for us. It brings to mind all of the suffering Christ willingly endured so that we could be saved from our sins. But, this is not just a passage that talks about the love of Christ. Instead, this is a passage that describes how the love of Christ ought to cause us to live our lives!

The love of Christ ought to control us! That is, whenever we realize the true magnificence of Christ’s sacrifice on the cross for our sins (and not His own), it ought to provoke a strong response in us. That response must be a determination to live our lives entirely for the one who has given His life for us! If you choose to live your life in any other way than this, you either do not recognize the

magnificence of Christ’s love or do not appreciate His sacrifice.

Galatians 2:20 expresses the type of commitment we must make to Christ as we consider His sacrifice. It says, “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” Our lives become His – to be used in His service to His honor and glory, however He chooses to use them! This will manifest itself in a life that is given to full submission to the instructions of God (in His written word, the Bible).

## **Romans 6:1-23**

Please take some time to read this entire chapter. For now, realize that there are two questions asked and answered in this chapter. The first question is: “May we continue to sin so that God’s grace may abound?” (6:1). That is, since God has shown His grace to those who are in Christ Jesus, is it not permissible for Christians to continue to live for sin – so that God’s grace can be shown in even greater abundance? The answer that is given in verse 2 is: “Certainly not!” Paul goes on to make the point that those who are Christians have died to sin. So, how can they continue to live for sin? Those who are Christians must not allow sin to reign in their bodies. Instead, they must use their bodies to accomplish God’s righteousness.

The second question is asked in verse 15: “May we sin because we are not under law but under grace?” That is, since God has made a way to be forgiven of sins under this new covenant, can’t we just live however we want to live – and expect God’s grace to cover our sin? This question is given the same answer as the last one: “Certainly not!” (6:15). Paul goes on to make the point that we are the slaves of the one we obey – either of sin or of righteousness. Sin leads to spiritual death. But, righteousness produces the fruit of holiness and results in everlasting life!

Both of these questions demonstrate misapplications of God’s grace that we must also be careful to avoid. God’s marvelous grace is not something that gives us the ability or permission to

commit even more unrighteousness. Rather, it gives us the opportunity to be freed from the sin we have previously committed and dedicate our lives entirely to serving God!

### **Colossians 3:1-4:1**

Again, please take some time to read this entire text. Part of walking worthy of the gospel's call is to walk in newness of life (i.e. to be transformed). This point is made by Paul in Ephesians 4:17-24. And, this is the same basic point is being made in Colossians 3. Those who are Christians are expected to have a new focus and new allegiance! Our focus is expected to be on the spiritual things of God rather than on the old ways of living (Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 3:3). Therefore, the Christian is seeking "those things which are above" (Colossians 3:1).

This transformation involves putting to death the old man of sin. This is the old manner of living that was contrary to the holy ways of God. The strong language of putting this old man to death indicates that this is a complete change – not a temporary or partial one! When the Christian recognizes that these ways of sinning separates himself/herself from his/her holy God, he/she should desire to entirely remove them from his/her life! Read Colossians 3:5-11 to see some specific things that are identified as being part of the old man.

Then, the transformation is not complete without the putting on of the new man. This new man has been given new spiritual life by God and is expected to be patterned after God in true righteousness and holiness (see Ephesians 4:23-24). According to Ephesians 4:23-24, renewal of the mind is involved in this transformation. That is, we have the responsibility to change the way in which we view sin and holiness in order to make our thinking compatible with God's instructions. Read Colossians 3:12-4:1 to see some specific things that are identified as being part of the new man (including a change in how we view our roles in relationships). Note that both the putting off of the old man and the putting on of the new man involves dedication and effort – and does not happen accidentally.

### **Titus 2:11-14**

This passage says, "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works."

The grace of God that brings salvation (which we have been studying throughout this lesson) teaches us some things. First, God's grace teaches us to deny ourselves of things that are contrary to His way of holiness (i.e. ungodliness and worldly lusts). Second, God's grace teaches us that we should determine to live in a way that is acceptable to God (i.e. soberly, righteously, godly, and looking for the return of Jesus Christ).

Jesus died to make us His own special people who were zealous for good works! Jesus did not die for us so that we could half-heartedly live for Him, doing His will *sometimes* and our own will *the rest* of the time! Instead, Jesus gave His life for us that He would have a group of people for Himself who were completely dedicated to serving Him. He wants us to be zealous (on fire) for good works! Therefore, His people should not view the commandments of God as being burdensome (1 John 5:2-3). We must not begrudge the idea of doing what God instructs us to do. Instead, we must be on fire to do the will of God!

### **2 Corinthians 6:11-7:1**

This is a final passage to consider in this lesson (as we attempt to put the grace of God into perspective). I encourage you to look at this passage. We have been separated from the sinful ways of our past – and the sinful ways of the world. We are different in God's sight – and are expected to live differently!

We must not continue to live for the same wicked ways of the world. God's people are not to join themselves with the ways of those who live for Satan and themselves! Verse 17 instructs, "Come

out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.” And, if we will do this, God promises that He will be our Father and we His sons and daughters!

Peter simply put it this way, “as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; 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’” (1 Peter 1:14-16).

## ***Conclusion***

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In this lesson, we have observed: (1) That God created us as holy beings; but, we each chose to violate His laws and live for ourselves – which results in serious spiritual consequences. (2) That God has given us the opportunity to be saved from our sins (something that we could not accomplish on our own). (3) That God’s grace must have a wide-reaching impact on the way we live our lives, leading us to live a life of holiness!

Have you accessed the grace of God? He has provided His grace for everyone; but, God requires that you be obedient to Him in order to enjoy the blessings He has prepared in Christ Jesus (by hearing His word, believing in Jesus as the Son of God, repenting of your sins, confessing Jesus Christ, and being baptized for the forgiveness of your sins)! If you have obeyed God and accessed these spiritual blessings, have you allowed God’s love to control your actions in every way? Or, do you still live to fulfill your own desires? Are you walking worthy of the gospel’s call? If not, make your life right with Him today! “Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation” (2 Corinthians 6:2)!

## ***Study Questions***

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What does it mean to be holy?

How can we be holy after we have sinned?

### **1. We Were Created Holy**

We you born pure or sinful? What does this mean regarding your holiness?

Who, then, have sinned? How does sin work?

What are the spiritual consequences of sin?

Can you solve the serious problem of sin by yourself?

### **2. God’s Grace To Save Us From Sin**

Has God provided a remedy for sin? Describe the nature of God’s plan of redemption.

What did God do in order to provide the opportunity of salvation.

What does God require you to do in order to be saved?

### **3. What God's Grace Should Mean To Us**

Review what we've established.

Discuss how the following passages discuss the impact God's grace should have on our lives and on our holiness:

1. Ephesians 4:1 –

2. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 –

3. Romans 6:1-23 –

4. Colossians 3:1-4:1 –

5. Titus 2:11-14 –

6. 2 Corinthians 6:11-7:1 –