

# “Be Holy, For I Am Holy”

Lesson 7: Holy In Conduct



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

Be Holy, For I Am Holy”

## Lesson 7: Holy In Conduct

Learn how to be holy in conduct by putting all your conduct to the test, clinging to the conduct that is good, and abstaining from all the conduct that is evil

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### Discovering God’s Word Bible Study Series

**Study Number:** DGW127

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**About the author:** My name is Eric Krieg. I am a disciple of Jesus, a Bible student, a truth seeker, and an evangelist. My interest is in using the Bible as my only guide in my faith. My desire is to help others understand the message of the Bible and pursue true, New Testament Christianity.

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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 7:

## Holy In Conduct

“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. Furthermore, it is only by the grace of God that we can be made holy after we have sinned – and that grace which has been shown toward us ought to provoke us to giving our lives entirely to the service of the Lord! Our continued responsibility, then, is to perfect holiness in the fear of the Lord (2 Corinthians 7:1).

But, what does perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord really look like? Previously, I suggested that 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 should be used as a model for perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord. This passage says, “Test all things; hold fast what is

good. Abstain from every form of evil.” We saw that this model involves three steps: Test, Cling, and Abstain.

To test means that we must examine everything in order to see its true nature (whether it is pleasing to God or not pleasing to Him). Then, we must cling (hold fast) to everything that is found to be in harmony with the will of God (that is, we must make it part of who we are and what we do). And, we must abstain (get away) from everything that is not found to be in harmony with the will of God (that is, we must give it no place in who we are and what we do).

This model has wide-reaching implications for our lives – in our thoughts, in our words, and in our conduct. During this section of lessons, we are spending our time evaluating each one of these three areas in order to see how we can be holy! This lesson will focus on our conduct.

The purpose of this lesson is to learn how we can be holy in our conduct by putting all things to the test, clinging to what is in harmony with God’s will, and abstaining from that which is contrary to God’s will.

### Test

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We must test/evaluate our conduct. The ways in which we conduct ourselves are important to God. We can either conduct ourselves in ways that are pleasing to God or we can conduct ourselves in ways that are not pleasing to God. Therefore, as we evaluate our conduct, recognize that we must be willing to evaluate every area of our conduct in order to see whether they are pleasing to God or not. We must not intentionally overlook *any* area. And, also remember that the standard for evaluating our conduct must be God’s word. Only this will help us to perfectly understand what kind of conduct is pleasing to God and what kind fails to please God.

### The importance of our conduct

As we begin evaluating our conduct, we must understand the importance of the ways in which we

conduct our lives. Our conduct, as we will see, reveals what is in our hearts. And, we are warned that someday we will reap according to whether we have conducted our lives in holy ways or not. I believe that a few simple points will help us to understand the importance of our conduct.

**(1) The Bible presents a clear standard for the way in which we conduct our lives.** In this lesson, we will be considering some specific elements of conduct the Bible instructs us to cling to. For now, we must recognize that God will judge us for how we conduct our lives on this earth – even for the things that we do in “secret”!

2 Corinthians 5:10 is a general passage that indicates we will be held accountable to God for everything that we have done during the course of our lifetimes. “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” All points of how we conduct our lives on this earth will be subject to the great judgment of God, both the good and the bad.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 says, “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man’s all. For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.” This passage indicates that our entire purpose in life is to fear God and to keep His commandments. The reason that is given for this is in recognition of the fact that God will bring every work (every deed we have done) into judgment – including every secret thing, whether good or evil.

2 Peter 3:10-14 says, “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved,

looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless.”

Of course, the Scriptures reveal that this final Judgment will take place when the Lord Jesus returns (see Matthew 25). So, those who are Christians ought to be conducting their lives in a way that they can look forward to this great Day (because this will be the Day of salvation for them)! But, in order to be able to look forward to this Day in which the world will be destroyed and we will all be judged, this passage teaches that we must be living in “holy conduct and godliness,” being diligent to be “found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless.”

Of course, as with everything in life, the Bible is the standard by which we will all be judged – and is the standard for holiness (Revelation 20:11-15)! Our conduct is not made “right” because we *feel* as if it is right, or because we have been *told* by someone else that it is right, etc. Consider how Saul (who later became known as the apostle Paul) had lived in “all good conscience before God” (Acts 23:1), even though he had been killing Christians (Acts 22:3-5). Instead, our conduct is only “right” in God’s sight if it is according to His standard of holiness and righteousness!

**(2) The Bible teaches that our conduct reveals our hearts.** Remember that the word “heart” is often used in the Bible as performing functions of the mind (i.e. Hebrews 4:12 mentions the thoughts and intents of the heart). Also remember the principles we established in a previous lesson regarding our thoughts (from Proverbs 4:23; Proverbs 23:7; Matthew 15:18-19) – that our thoughts and intents lead to conduct that is either godly or ungodly. If our hearts are ungodly, they will produce ungodly actions (i.e. just as David committed the sinful act of adultery with Bathsheba as a result of his lustful thoughts). If, however, our hearts are godly, they will produce godly actions (i.e. just as Joseph refused to commit adultery with Potiphar’s wife because he had made the determination not to sin against God).

In addition, Jesus teaches that our hearts are found wherever our treasures are. Matthew 6:19-21 says, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves

break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Consider the implications of the teaching in verse 21. Jesus is teaching that when we identify the things that we treasure most, we will also be able to identify whether our hearts are focused on earthly things or on heavenly things! So, if we spend the majority of our “free time” watching television, surfing the web, and playing games – and not using that time to study God’s word, to do good to others, to teach the gospel of Christ to the lost, to fulfill our God-given roles in our families, etc., we can know that our hearts are focused on earthly things instead of on heavenly things! In addition, if our first financial considerations involve the purchase of luxuries, entertainment, and other non-essential earthly things – and not using that money to advance the cause of Christ’s kingdom, to help those who are in need, to give to the work of the local church, etc., we can know that our hearts are focused on earthly things and not on heavenly things!

Again, this passage simply states the same truth as Proverbs 23:7 does (and the other passages I mentioned), just in reverse! Our hearts lead us to action – and the things that we do reveal where our hearts are!

Consider, then, the importance of exercising care regarding the kind of conduct we put ourselves around! Remember, our five senses are the ways in which things gain access into our minds (they are the “entrance gates” I spoke of in lesson 5). So, we need to be careful what kind of conduct we *willingly* subject our minds to from entertainment sources (i.e. television, radio, music, the places we choose to go, etc.). We need to choose our friends wisely (1 Corinthians 15:33) – and not *willingly* spend time around those who are conducting themselves in sinful ways (Ephesians 5:11). We also need to *do our best* to remove ourselves from situations/environments in which folks are conducting themselves in sinful ways (i.e. by asking the conduct to stop, leaving the room, etc.).

Remember the principle once more: Garbage in, garbage out! While this is not always true in our

lives (because we can choose *not* to be involved in the sinful things around us), it is generally true! The more that we are *willing* to put ourselves around sin, the more we will tend to become desensitized to sin – often resulting in imitating the same kinds of sinful behavior.

**(3) The Bible teaches that we will reap what we sow.** Galatians 6:7-8 says, “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”

However we choose to conduct our lives, we must always remember that we will reap what we sow. This is a basic principle of agriculture. If a farmer plants corn, he will reap corn at the time of harvest (not tomatoes or green beans). If a farmer plants peppers, he will reap peppers at the time of harvest (not corn or cucumbers).

This basic principle of agriculture has great application to the ways in which we choose to conduct our lives on this earth! The text teaches us that if we conduct our lives according to our own fleshly desires (and not according to the desires of God), we will reap corruption (i.e. everlasting punishment in Hell, Revelation 21:8). However, if we conduct our lives according to God’s desires (rather than our own physical desires), we will reap eternal life (in Heaven, 1 Peter 1:3-9).

So, there is a fundamental choice that must be made regarding the way in which we choose to conduct our lives: Will we conduct our lives in the way that pleases God – or the way that pleases our own flesh? God has given us the free will to make this decision. He has not forced us to follow Him! However, He has warned us that we will reap whatever we sow! So, choose wisely!

**(4) The Bible teaches that our conduct can influence others – either for the good or for the bad.** First, the ways in which we choose to conduct our lives can have an evil influence on those who see our lives. 1 Corinthians 15:33 says, “Do not be deceived: ‘Evil company corrupts good habits.’” Now, this passage should not only serve as a warning to us concerning those we are closely associated with

(warning that evil companions can corrupt our own good habits); but, it should also serve to warn that we can corrupt the good habits of others by our evil conduct! 1 Corinthians 5 also describes how the sinful conduct of one member of a local church is capable of negatively influencing the entire congregation, having a “leavening” effect on the entire church (consider the exhortations in verses 6, 7, and 13).

However, the ways we choose to conduct our lives can also have a good influence on those who see our lives. Matthew 5:13-16 describes how the Christian’s life should be in comparison to the rest of the world (i.e. how it ought to stand out from the sinful decisions that are routinely made by those in the world). In fact, this passage teaches that it is even possible for those who see our godly lives to glorify God in their own lives, through the examples that we have set! Additionally, 1 Peter 3:1-2 demonstrates how Christian women can even convert their own husbands to Christ without a word, by living their lives according to the instructions of God’s word (leaving a good example for their unbelieving husbands)!

So, we need to be considering what kind of influence we are having on those who see our lives (i.e. those who are members of the same local church we are members of, those we work with, those we go to school with, our friends, our family members, our neighbors, strangers we meet, etc.). Will we be influencing them to commit wickedness and sin against God? Will we be leaving them a bad example of how Christians ought to live? Will we be damaging the reputation of the local church we are members of? Or, will we be influencing them to live holy lives that are right in the sight of God? Will we be leaving them a proper example of how Christians ought to live? Will we be leaving a positive impression of the local church we are members of?

### **Our conduct must be transformed**

The transformation that is required of Christians involves the renewing of our minds. We considered this as part of a previous study. Go back and review Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:22-24; and Colossians 3:1-4.

As you consider some of the passages that describe the Christian’s transformation, you should also notice that our conduct is involved in this transformation. Ephesians 4:25-6:9 demonstrates that there are some things which must have no part in our conduct any longer – and there are some things which must become part of the ways in which we conduct our lives (even affecting our relationships). Colossians 3:5-4:1 also identifies some ways of conducting our lives that are part of the “old man” of sin which must be put to death – as well as some ways of conducting our lives that are part of the “new man” of righteousness that must be put on!

The Christian, then, must be devoted to exercising self-control over his/her own conduct. Proverbs 25:28 says, “Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, without walls.”

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 also demonstrates the importance of self-discipline: “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”

It is generally accepted that self-discipline is necessary for an athlete to train in order to win the prize he/she is competing for. In fact, many athletes go to great lengths to be self-disciplined in their diets, training regimens, lifestyle choices, etc. so that they can win the prize they desire to achieve. Paul’s point is simply this: If athletes are willing to discipline themselves to obtain earthly prizes (which are perishable), Christians ought to be much more diligent in disciplining themselves in order to obtain their spiritual prize of eternal salvation in Heaven (which is imperishable)! Then, Paul states that even he (despite everything that he had accomplished for the Lord in his life) could become “disqualified” (i.e. he could lose his salvation) if he failed to exercise the proper self-discipline!

# *Cling*

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There are a number of things that are specifically mentioned in the Scriptures that are approved of God related to how we conduct our lives. We need to hold to these things – so that we will be living in the way that pleases God! Now, we will certainly not discuss every single element of our conduct that is appropriate and right in the sight of God (that will take an ongoing study of the Scriptures and constant evaluation of our conduct). However, we will identify some specific things that are identified in the Scriptures as being approved of God.

## **Bringing glory to God**

Bringing glory to God is our true purpose in life! So, we must cling to anything and everything that will accomplish this great task. Consider the following passages.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 teaches that those who are Christians have the responsibility to glorify God in their bodies and spirits because they have been bought with the precious blood of Jesus Christ: “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.” This involves dedicating all of our energies and abilities to accomplishing this great mission of bringing glory to God.

1 Corinthians 10:31 teaches that Christians must glorify God in every decision that they make on this earth: “Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” Nothing is excluded from this. Everything that we do must have the end result of bringing glory to God. If it does not, our conduct is not pleasing to God.

Matthew 5:16 teaches that the way in which we conduct our lives can lead others to giving glory to God: “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” So, not only can we glorify God through our own conduct; but, our dedication to glorify God in our conduct can even result in others glorifying God!

The only way we can glorify God in our lives is if we are obedient to Him! We do not glorify God if we conduct our lives in a way that is *not* in harmony with His commandments. However, when we obey His commandments, we *do* glorify God! So, this general principle has many specific applications – both in things we must do and things we must abstain from in order to glorify God (some of which we’ll be considering in this lesson)! Please keep this point in mind throughout the remainder of our study.

## **Preaching God’s word**

God’s people have been given the responsibility of spreading God’s saving message to others (Romans 10:13-18). Without this, God’s message will not be spread! So, it is up to His people (every Christian) to accomplish this great task.

Involved in the preaching of the gospel of Christ is the intention to preach and the preparedness to preach. In Mark 16:15, Jesus instructed His disciples to “go” and preach. This involved a particular type of conduct! This involves looking for and praying for open doors of opportunity to preach God’s saving message to others! And, in order to preach the message of the gospel, Christians need to conduct themselves in a way so as to be prepared to spread His message to others (Colossians 4:5-6; 1 Peter 3:15).

## **Bible study**

In order to live in a way that pleases God, we must know what God’s will is (so that we can be obedient to it). Recognize that faith comes from hearing, and hearing from the word of God (Romans 10:17)! So, if we do not study the message of the gospel, we will not have saving faith (a faith that is obedient to God). Then, if we do not study the Bible, we will not be able to teach others about the saving message of the gospel.

Therefore, we need to conduct our lives in a way that purposefully sets aside time and puts forth the effort to study our Bibles! Acts 17:11 shows an excellent example of individuals who studied the Scriptures every day in order to learn the will of God! This ought to be our desire if we want to live in a way that pleases God!

## **Serving**

In John 13:1-17, Jesus provided a great example of serving others. Jesus Christ (who was God manifested in the flesh) willingly took the job that was designated for the lowest of servants. This was the job of washing feet. He did not do this to institute some meaningless religious practice of foot washing. Instead, He did this to leave an example of how His disciples must seek to serve others! In fact, Jesus taught His disciples that true greatness in the kingdom of God is found through serving, not in trying to exalt ourselves (Matthew 20:27-28)!

We ought to be conducting our lives in a way that seeks to do good to everyone, as we have opportunity! Galatians 6:10 instructs that we do good to everyone (especially to our Christian brethren), as we have opportunity! So, we must be keeping our eyes open for opportunities to serve – and be willing to take advantage of the opportunities that are presented. We learn this lesson from Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). We learn that we have the responsibility to help everyone we have the opportunity and ability to help! And, we learn that doing this is how we fulfill the commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves (Luke 10:27).

## **Encouraging our brethren**

There are actually many responsibilities we have toward our brethren – and we must be conducting our lives in a way so as to fulfill each one of these responsibilities! For instance, (1) we must greet one another in an affectionate way (Romans 16:16). (2) We must bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2). (3) We must love one another (1 Peter 4:8). (4) We must be hospitable toward one another (1 Peter 4:9). (5) We must teach and admonish one another through singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (Colossians 3:16). And, there are many other "one another" responsibilities given in the Scriptures we must fulfill.

Then, one of the ways in which we must conduct our lives toward our Christian brethren is to encourage them. Hebrews 3:12-13 tells us that we have the responsibility to encourage one another on a daily basis. This is so that we will not be hardened

by the deceitfulness of sin! Hebrews 10:24-25 tells us that we need to be considering one another, looking for and taking advantage of opportunities to provoke one another to love and good works. We can accomplish this by faithfully attending the assemblies of the local church, speaking words of encouragement, setting good examples, restoring those who have sinned, studying God's word together, praying together, etc.

## **Good stewardship**

Matthew 25:14-30 demonstrates that we are stewards (managers) of the things that have been entrusted to our care during our lives on this earth. And, as this passage demonstrates, we will be accountable to God for how we have managed these things – whether we have put them to good use in His service or if we have been lazy and failed in the way we have managed these things. Only those who are found to be faithful (good) stewards will be rewarded with eternal life in Heaven. Those who are judged to have been unfaithful stewards will be punished with everlasting punishment in Hell.

So, we must conduct our lives in a way that we will be considered good (faithful) stewards. This involves being good managers of our time by using our time to serve God and not misusing our time. This involves being good managers of our money by using our money to serve God and not misusing our money. This involves being good managers of our physical bodies by using our bodies in a way that glorifies God and not misusing our bodies. The same points can be made for everything that has been entrusted to our care on this earth!

## ***Abstain***

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In contrast with these types of conduct that are approved of God, there are a number of things that are specifically mentioned in the Scriptures that are not approved of God related to how we conduct our lives. We need to keep away from these things – because conducting our lives in these ways fails to please God! Now, we will certainly not talk about every single element of our conduct that is



inappropriate and sinful in the sight of God (that will take an ongoing study of the Scriptures and constant evaluation of our conduct). However, we will discuss some specific things which are identified in the Scriptures as not being approved of God.

## **Fornication**

Fornication refers to all acts of sexual intercourse that are outside of God's law (including sexual relations outside of marriage, adultery, homosexuality, and bestiality). Fornication is condemned in many Scriptures, including 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 5:3; Colossians 3:5. The only situation in which God approves of sexual relations is between a man and a woman in a God-approved marriage (see Hebrews 13:4).

## **Lewdness**

Lewdness refers to all impure/unchaste behavior (especially of a sexual nature). Lewd behavior is shameful conduct – and is condemned in Galatians 5:19-21. Lewd behavior would include dancing that involves bodily movements that are not proper. Lewd behavior would include inappropriate (unholy) contact between those who are not married. Lewd behavior would also include the lack of restraint in the entertainment we participate in (i.e. participating in entertainment that includes sexually inappropriate scenes/references). And, it would include wearing clothing that does not meet God's standard for modesty.

## **Idolatry**

Idolatry is also condemned repeatedly in the Scriptures (i.e. Galatians 5:19-21). However, idolatry is not just the result of worshiping and serving images of false gods that are made of gold, silver, bronze, wood, etc. Instead, idolatry is the result whenever we worship and serve anything/anyone besides the one true God! For instance, the Scriptures identify covetousness as idolatry (Colossians 3:5). So, our money can be an idol. Our family members can be idols. Our pursuit of earthly pleasures can be an idol. Our jobs can be idols. Our hobbies can be idols. And many, many, other things can be idols!

## **Consuming alcohol**

It is often understood that God condemns drunkenness (i.e. Ephesians 5:18). However, many religious people believe that it is OK to consume some alcoholic beverages in moderation (i.e. social drinking). Yet, the Bible actually condemns the entire process of becoming drunk (a process which begins with the very first drink)! For instance, 1 Peter 4:3-4 not only condemns drunkenness; but, it also condemns a half-drunken state (“revelries” in the NKJV) and social drinking (“drinking parties” in the NKJV)! In addition, any time alcohol is used in these ways, it is contrary to the commandment of God to be sober-minded (i.e. 1 Peter 1:13 and 1 Peter 5:8).

## **Smoking**

Smoking cigarettes and using other tobacco products have been proven and are widely known to harm the body. They are known for causing all sorts of cancer in the body (particularly in the lungs and in the mouth/throat). In addition to cancer, tobacco products are known to cause other diseases (i.e. COPD). If the Christian is aware of the dangers of this habit and chooses to continue that habit, he/she is willingly choosing to abuse his/her body (contrary to the instruction in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20) – and fails to be a good steward of his/her health!

## **Drugs**

Drugs that are used for “recreational” purposes are also known to produce many of the same types of harmful effects as tobacco products (and often produces other harmful effects as well). The Christian, then, must abstain from using these products for the same reason we have just considered! In addition, the Christian has the responsibility to obey the laws of the land (as long as they do not cause us to violate God's laws), according to Romans 13:1-7. So, a Christian cannot be involved in the use of illegal drugs and still please God!

## **Sinful entertainment/recreation**

The Christian must abstain from every form of evil (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22) and have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness

(Ephesians 5:11). So, the Christian must stay away from forms of entertainment and recreation that consists of anything that is contrary to God's standard of holiness. This would apply to television programs, movies, music, internet sites, books, magazines, etc. that use language that is not approved of God, displays individuals who are immodestly clothed, shows sexual acts being performed, etc. This would also apply to forms of recreation that are not entirely pure – such as participating in athletic events that require you to dress immodestly, being involved in school functions that require you to miss the assemblies of the local church, etc.

### **Immodest dress**

God has set a particular standard for how we are to clothe ourselves. 1 Timothy 2:9-10 instructs that we clothe ourselves (particularly addressed to women) in a way that is modest (well-arranged), with propriety (a sense of shame and bashfulness), and with moderation (with self-control and soundness of mind). The Christian's clothing must also be such that it professes godliness with good works. That is, our clothing must show Christ to others – not show off our bodies to others! In addition to this passage, the Bible demonstrates that God has a particular standard for clothing (i.e. Genesis 3:6-7, 21 and Exodus 28:42). This standard demonstrates that God chose to clothe people from the neck to the knees (at a minimum)! So, tight fitting jeans/shorts, short clothing (i.e. shorts/skirts that do not cover the thigh), see-through clothing, low-cut clothing, bathing suits, strapless dresses, etc. are all examples of clothing that is not fitting for the Christian to wear!

### **Forsaking assemblies of the local church**

Hebrews 10:24-25 plainly commands that Christians do not forsake the assembling together with the local church: “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” However, many people choose not to assemble with the local churches they have joined themselves to once or more each week (often on Sunday evenings or for midweek services)! Yet, when Christians

willfully neglect to assemble together with their brethren (for any reason that is within their control), they sin and actually harm the local church!

## ***Conclusion***

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In this lesson, we have observed: (1) That we must put all of our conduct to the test, recognizing the importance of the ways in which we conduct our lives. (2) That the Scriptures identify many ways we should conduct our lives that are according to the will of God which we must be diligent to cling to. And, (3) that the Scriptures identify many ways we should not conduct our lives that are contrary to the will of God which we must be diligent to abstain from.

Have you been pressing toward perfect holiness? We must remember that we will give an account for how we have conducted our lives on the Day of Judgment – and that we will reap what we have sown. In all areas, let us be diligent to live our lives in “holy conduct and godliness” (2 Peter 3:11), as we anticipate this great Day!

Are you perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord by being holy in conduct (testing everything you do, clinging to the good, and abstaining from every form of evil)? If not, make your life right with Him today! Choose to use all of your conduct to bring glory to God by accomplishing His purposes through your life. Do not delay! “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?

What is your responsibility to be holy throughout your life?

### **1. Test**

What is the importance of your conduct?

What is the importance of being transformed in your conduct?

### **2. Cling**

What kind of conduct must you cling to?

Explain the following types of conduct you must cling to:

1. Bringing glory to God –

2. Preaching God’s word –

3. Bible study –

4. Serving –

5. Encouraging brethren –

6. Good stewardship –

### **3. Abstain**

What kind of conduct must you abstain from?

Explain the following types of conduct you must abstain from:

1. Fornication –

2. Lewdness –

3. Idolatry –

4. Consuming alcohol –

5. Smoking –

6. Drugs –

7. Sinful entertainment/recreation –

8. Immodest dress –

9. Forsaking assemblies –