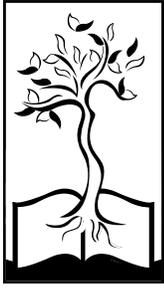


# CHRISTIAN LIVING – Part 1



## Bethel Discipleship Series

### SCRIPTURE TEXT:

#### Hebrews 12:14

*“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.”*

## I. HOLINESS DEFINED

- A. Both the Old and New Testament Scriptures define the internal character and the external behavior of the people of God with an extraordinary word – *holiness*.
- **Deuteronomy 7:6** – “For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special (separated) people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.”
  - **1 Peter 2:9** – “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people (unique treasure); that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.”
1. In the Bible, the English word “holy” is translated from the Hebrew word “*quaddash*” and the Greek word “*hagiasmos*.” Both words are defined as “to be set apart or consecrated,” to be sanctified, to be kept apart from unclean or impure things.
  2. Inherent in both words are the connotations of separation, purity, and perfection.
- B. Since the scripture informs us that without holiness “no man shall see the Lord,” it is vitally important for us to study the Biblical principle of “holiness” and see how it relates to our daily lives.

## II. THE CHARACTER OF GOD – HOLINESS

- A. The nature and character of God is most clearly revealed in His two major, defining attributes: love and holiness.
1. 1 John 4:8 tells us that “God is love.” This is often stated as being the essential nature of God.
  2. However, more than fifty times in Scripture we are told that God is holy.
    - **Psalm 99:9** – “... the LORD our God is holy.”
    - **Exodus 15:11** – “Who is like unto thee, O LORD, ... glorious in holiness, ...?”
    - **Ezekiel 39:7** – “...I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.”
    - **Leviticus 11:45** – “... ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.”
    - **Revelation 4:8** – “And the four beasts ...rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty...”

(See also: Leviticus 11:44; Leviticus 20:26; Joshua 24:19; 1 Samuel 2:2; 1 Samuel 6:20; 2 Kings 19:22; 1 Chronicles 16:10; Job 6:10; Psalm 22:3; Isaiah 6:3; Ezekiel 39:7; Hosea 11:9; Amos 4:2; Habakkuk 1:12)

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- B. Scripture also indicates that not only is God Himself holy, but all that He commands, establishes, ordains, and decrees is holy as well.
- The law and commandments of God are holy. (*Romans 7:12*)
  - His promises are holy. (*Psalms 105:42*)
  - All Scripture is holy. (*Romans 1:2; 2 Timothy 3:15,16*)
  - His name is holy. (*Psalms 99:3, 1 Chronicles 29:16, Matthew 6:9, Philipians 2:9-11*)

## III. THE HOLINESS OF GOD’S PEOPLE

- A. Holiness is not attributed only to God; it is also used in Scripture to define God’s people – His saints, His children, the believers, followers and disciples.
- **Deuteronomy 28:9** – “The LORD shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways.”
  - **Exodus 19:6** – “And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation ...”
  - **Hebrews 3:1** – “...holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, ...”
- B. Because God is holy, He calls for a holy people. Holiness is not a suggestion or an option – it is an imperative New Testament command of God.
- **Romans 6:19** – “...as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.”
  - **Romans 6:22** – “...being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, ...”
  - **Romans 12:1** – “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”
  - **2 Corinthians 7:1** – “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”
  - **Ephesians 1:4** – “...that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.”
  - **Ephesians 4:24** – “...put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”
  - **Ephesians 5:27** – “That he (Christ) might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”
  - **1 Peter 1:15-16** – “But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation (anastrophe: behavior); Because it is written, Be ye holy: for I am holy.”
  - **Hebrews 12:14** – “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.”
1. These Scriptures, along with others, elevate the principle of personal holiness to a dimension of great importance – holiness becomes an essential, necessary element of the Christian life.
  2. Holiness is the only lifestyle of the true, scripturally-obedient Christian. It becomes a distinguishing characteristic – a divine calling for all believers.
    - **1 Thessalonians 4:7** – “For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.”

## IV. THE ATTAINMENT OF HOLINESS

- A. Holiness and righteousness are closely related concepts in Scripture. These principles overlap and have a close relationship with each other and cannot be separated from each other.

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- **Luke 1:74-75** – “That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear,<sup>75</sup>In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.”
1. While the word *holy* (*holiness*) denotes a separation from unclean and impure things, the word *righteous* (*righteousness*) denotes obedience and adherence to Divine law.
  2. Therefore, holiness is a state or condition (*separation and purity*) while righteousness involves action and obedience.
    - **1 John 2:29** – “...he that doeth righteousness is born of him (God)”
    - **1 John 3:7** – “...he that doeth righteousness is righteous...”
    - **1 John 3:10** – “...whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God...”
  - G. Campbell Morgan states, “These two words, holiness and righteousness, mark two aspects of one condition. Holiness has to do with character; righteousness with conduct. They cannot possibly be separated from each other. They are as intimately related as are root and fruit. There can be no fruit unless there be a root. If there be living root it must issue in fruit. There can be no righteousness unless there is holiness; holiness must issue in righteousness. Holiness describes being; righteousness describes doing.”
- B. As Christians, in order to attain (*get*) and “follow after” holiness and righteousness, two things are required: the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ and our continual obedience to the Word of God.
1. First, righteousness and holiness are imputed (*gifted, not earned*) to us by Jesus Christ. When we become children of God, His righteousness and holiness is accredited to us.
    - **Hebrews 10:10** – “By the which will we are sanctified (*hagiazō* – “made holy”) through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”
    - **2 Corinthians 5:21** – “For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one (Jesus Christ) shall many be made righteous.”
  - a. When the blood of Jesus Christ is applied to our life at our new-birth, His righteousness and holiness are imputed to us on the merit of His sacrifice at Calvary.
  - b. This means that righteousness and holiness is transferred, accredited, or granted to us as His free gift of grace and is applied to us through our obedient faith in His Word.
    - **Romans 5:17-19** – “For if by one man's offence (Adam's) death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.”
  - c. As we participate in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are washed by His blood and cleansed of the sins for which we could have never paid. Through His grace we are made righteous and holy.
  - d. However, this gift of righteousness awakens us to a new way of life, behavior, and lifestyle.
    - **1 Corinthians 15:34** – “Awake to righteousness, (*arouse yourself*) and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.”
1. This Scripture commands Christians to arouse themselves to righteous living and to separate ourselves from the things that God hates.

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- **Romans 6:12-20** – “Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? ...Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness ...as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness ...”
- e. These Scriptures make it undeniably clear that after the gift of holiness and righteousness is conferred upon us by the grace of Jesus Christ, we should begin to follow a lifestyle of righteous and holy behavior.
- 2. We see unmistakably that righteousness and holiness are accounted to us through our continued obedience to God’s Word.
  - **Romans 6:16** – “Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”
    - a. If we yield to sin, we are servants of sin and will be punished with death. (*Romans 6:23*)
    - b. If we yield to obedience, we are servants of obedience and will be rewarded with righteousness. (*2 Timothy 4:8*)
- 3. Let’s look at the scriptural terminology concerning our role in personal righteousness and holiness.
  - **Romans 6:19** – “...yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.”
  - **Romans 12:1** – “...present your bodies ...holy,”
  - **2 Corinthians 7:1** – “...cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness.”
  - **Ephesians 4:24** – “...put on the new man ...in righteousness and true holiness.”
  - **1 Peter 1:15-16** – “...be ye holy in all manner of conversation (anastrophe: behavior)”
  - **Hebrews 12:14** – “Follow ... holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.”
  - **2 Timothy 2:22** – “Flee lusts and follow righteousness...”
  - **Titus 2:12** – “...deny ungodliness and worldly lust, live soberly, righteously and godly...”
  - **1 John 2:29** – “...he that doeth righteousness is born of him (God)”
  - **1 John 3:7** – “...he that doeth righteousness is righteous...”
  - **1 John 3:10** – “...whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God...”
  - **2 Peter 3:11** – “...what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation (anastrophe: behavior) and godliness.”
  - a. The underlined portions of the verses above contain *verbs*, words denoting *action*. The language of these Scriptures clearly reveals that there is *action* that we must undertake in order to continue in righteousness and holiness before God.
  - b. True holiness begins as an imparted gift of grace that, in turn, teaches us to follow a lifestyle of righteousness unto God.
    - **Titus 2:11-12** – “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.”

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- c. We must look closely at this Scripture and ask ourselves, “What am I allowing grace to teach me?”
- C. We cannot make ourselves clean (only God can do that), but we can make ourselves dirty. We cannot make ourselves righteous, but we can make ourselves unrighteous. We cannot make ourselves holy, but we can make ourselves unholy. Once we have been made clean, we have a responsibility to keep ourselves clean.
- **1 John 5:18** – “We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, ...”
  - **James 1:27** – “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, ... to keep himself unspotted from the world.”
  - **1 Timothy 5:22** – “...neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.”
  - **2 Peter 2:20-22** – “For if after they (believers) have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.”
1. We who have been washed in the blood of the Lamb must keep ourselves from the filthiness of the world.
  2. Although our holiness begins with God imputing His righteousness and holiness unto us it is “perfected” (further fulfilled) by living a lifestyle that is clean, holy, and righteous.
    - **2 Corinthians 7:1** – “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

## V. THE TWO DIMENSIONS OF PERSONAL HOLINESS

- A. Holiness is manifest in a believer’s life in two forms: by inward purity and by outward purity.
- B. Jesus uses the analogy of a cup and platter in explaining the holiness of an individual.
  - **Matthew 23:25-26** – “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.”
1. In this passage, Jesus was condemning the Pharisees, but He was *not* condemning their outward holiness – He was condemning their lack of inward holiness.
  - a. Some have erroneously believed that since Jesus condemned the Pharisees for their lack of inward holiness, this indicates that all that God requires is inward holiness.
  - b. This could not be further from the truth. Jesus specifically said, “cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.”

***This Scripture reveals four possibilities:***

*Outside Dirty – Inside Dirty*

*Outside Dirty – Inside Clean*

*Outside Clean – Inside Dirty*

*Outside Clean – Inside Clean*

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2. True holiness begins inwardly and progresses outwardly.
- C. Jesus was clearly teaching that both the inside *and* the outside need to be clean and pure – one without the other is insufficient. Holiness involves both the spirit and the flesh.
  - **2 Corinthians 7:1** – “...let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”
  - **1 Thessalonians 5:23** – “...I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- D. Holiness involves the entire being – it is not just an inward purity, it is not just an outward purity: true holiness requires *both*.

## VI. INTERNAL HOLINESS

- A. Man is powerless to cleanse himself from sin. The inward cleansing of the human soul and spirit can only be accomplished by Jesus Christ, Himself.
  1. Sins cannot be remitted without blood (Hebrews 9:22) and no other cleansing agent can initially purify the heart of man except the blood of Jesus Christ.
    - **Revelation 1:5** – “... Jesus Christ, who ...washed us from our sins in his own blood.”
    - **1 John 1:7** – “...the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”
    - a. Our good deeds, pious living and righteous actions cannot cleanse us inwardly – we must be washed in the blood of the Lamb of God.
    - b. We must never think that our righteous living is something that earns us the holiness of God. Inner cleansing and the righteousness of God imputed to us is God’s gift to us.
  2. When we are baptized in water in Jesus’ name, the blood of Jesus Christ is applied to us and our hearts are purified and cleansed.
- C. However, once our hearts have been cleansed by the power of the blood, it becomes our responsibility to keep our hearts and inner man clean.
  - **Proverbs 4:23** – “Keep (guard) thy heart with all diligence ...”
  - 1. After we have been cleansed by the blood, we need to learn to “wash ourselves in the Word.” There is cleansing power in the Word of God. It has the ability to continually wash us and keep us clean.
    - **John 15:3** – “Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.”
    - **1 Peter 1:22** – “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit ...”
    - **Ephesians 5:25-26** – “...Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.”
  - 2. By continually reading, hearing and obeying the Word of God, our inner man is cleansed and protected from sin and unrighteousness.
    - **Psalms 119:11** – “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”

## VII. EXTERNAL HOLINESS

- A. Internal holiness is vital, but authentic internal holiness will eventually result in external holiness.

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- **Romans 12:1** – “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”
  1. Outward holiness is not unreasonable or extreme – it is our *reasonable* (logical) responsibility.
  2. External holiness begins with offering our bodies as “*living sacrifices*” unto God.
    - a. By definition, to “sacrifice” is to offer up, to give something that is dear and costly.
    - b. Our bodies and their activities are to be offered unto God, even when it is inconvenient, displeasing, or unpleasant to us. Offering our bodies and lifestyles to God is a sacrifice.
  3. The Christian cannot allow his or her body to be involved in sinful deeds or activities.
    - **Romans 6:12** – “Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.”
- B. The Christian life has always been a life of self-denial. In order to follow Christ, one of the first things we must do is learn to say “no” to our own flesh, to Satan and to worldly desires.
  - **Matthew 16:24** – “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, (abstain, disown) and take up his cross, and follow me.”
  - **Titus 2:12** – “...denying ungodliness and worldly lusts ...”
    1. Bringing the appetites and desires of the flesh under the control of the Holy Spirit is not an insignificant thing – it is crucial because it affects our eternal destiny.
      - **Romans 8:13** – “For if ye live (lifestyle) after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify (kill) the deeds of the body, ye shall live.”
    2. This verse, written to the Spirit-filled Christians in Rome, was a warning to them (and to us); a reminder that we must make the right choice in our lifestyles – we must mortify our own flesh.
- C. The apostle Paul teaches us the necessity of denying the flesh, controlling the carnal appetites and bringing the body under the control of the spirit.
  - **1 Corinthians 9:27** – “But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.”
    1. Paul clearly infers that if the carnal body is not kept “under” (*in subjection to the Spirit*), the potential of becoming a castaway or a reject becomes very possible.
- D. Our body is the temple of God, and God will only dwell in a temple that is holy.
  - **1 Corinthians 6:19** – “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?”
    1. Our body does not belong to us; it is not our personal property any more – it is God’s temple. We have become “keepers” or “guardians” of the temple of God. It is our responsibility to keep it pure.
    2. A stern New Testament judgment is pronounced upon anyone who defiles the temple of God.
      - **1 Corinthians 3:16-17** – “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.”

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3. God will not continue to live in a defiled or corrupt temple. He explicitly demands that as Christians, we deny our carnal lusts and live after the Spirit rather than after the flesh.
- E. As Christians, sooner or later, we must decide whether or not we are going to be obedient to the commands of the New Testament. Most of these commands involve our behavior and lifestyle.

## VIII. THE PURPOSE OF HOLINESS

A. Genuine holiness brings glory to God!

- **1 Corinthians 6:20** – “For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”
1. The divine purpose of our inward and outward holiness is to bring glory to Almighty God through our willing obedience. Our righteous lifestyle is a testimony and an indictment to disobedient mankind and to fallen angels.
    - **Matthew 5:16** – “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”
    - **1 Corinthians 4:9** – “...for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.”
  2. By “perfecting holiness” in both spirit and body we shame a disobedient world, we discredit fallen angels, and we give honor unto God.
  3. God is a holy God – and we are His holy people.
  4. Holiness and righteousness are an important element in our worship unto God. We are called to give Him the glory that He deserves by serving Him in true righteousness and holiness.

## IX. OUR MANNER OF SPEECH

A. Christians are instructed in Scripture to control their tongue and speech. Our behavior is influenced and affected by our communication.

- **1 Corinthians 15:33** – “Be not deceived: evil communications (wicked conversation) corrupt good manners (moral behavior).”
- **Proverbs 21:23** – “Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.”
- **1 Timothy 5:13** – “And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.”
- **James 3:2** – “...If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.”
- **Philippians 2:14** – “Do all things without murmurings and disputings.”
- **1 Peter 4:15** – “But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.”

1. According to 1 Corinthians 15:33, wicked or ungodly conversation corrupts our moral behavior!

B. There are several types of speech and verbal behavior that Christians are expressly taught to avoid.

1. Tale bearing and gossip

- **Psalms 101:5** – “Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off...”

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- **Leviticus 19:16** – “Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people...”
  - **Proverbs 10:18** – “...he that uttereth a slander, is a fool.”
  - **1 Timothy 5:13** – “(Christians should not be) ... idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.”
2. Murmuring and complaining
- **Philippians 2:14** – “Do all things without murmurings and disputings.”
  - **1 Corinthians 10:10** – “Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.”
- a. To murmur is to grumble and complain. It has an implied meaning of griping, whining, moaning, fretting, and fussing – it is muttering and whispering under the breath.
- b. God sent fiery serpents among the children of Israel in the wilderness because they murmured and complained. (*Numbers 21:6*)
3. Spreading discord, strife or conflict
- **Proverbs 6:19** – “(the Lord hates) A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.”
  - **Romans 16:17** – “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions ...”
4. Swearing oaths
- **James 5:12** – “But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.”
- a. To swear means to pledge a vow, to make a covenant, or to promise while under oath.
- b. Christians, if called before a court of law, are not to swear by anything, but to say “I affirm that I will tell the truth.”
5. Filthy Communication
- **Colossians 3:8** – “But now ye also put off ...filthy communication out of your mouth.”
- a. Filthy communication can be translated as vile or unclean conversation.
- b. There are many words and phrases used frequently by the world that should not be spoken by those whose lips have spoken in tongues as the Spirit gave utterance.
6. Cursing and reviling
- a. To curse or revile is to imprecate, fulminate, to execrate, to damn, to defame, to denigrate, to use offensive, abusive language, to call someone derogatory names.
- **James 3:8-10** – “But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.”
  - **Romans 12:14** – “Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.”
  - **1 Corinthians 6:9-10** – “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither ... revilers ... shall inherit the kingdom of God.”

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- b. Just as sweet and bitter water does not flow from the same well (*James 3:11*), so blessing and cursing should not come from the same mouth.
  - c. When we are upset or enraged we should take great care to “be angry and sin not” (*Ephesians 4:26*).
7. Lying or bearing false witness
- **Exodus 20:16** – “*Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.*”
  - **Mark 10:19** – “*Thou knowest the commandments...Do not bear false witness...*”
  - **Colossians 3:9** – “*Lie not one to another...*”
  - **Revelation 21:8** – “*...all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone...*”
- a. Lying and untruthful witness is an offense to God, and those who commit these sins of the tongue shall perish.
8. Idle words
- a. Idle words can be defined as, pointless, unnecessary, frivolous, senseless, and uncontrolled.
  - b. The term indicates an individual who talks or babbles incessantly, who speaks before thinking.
    - **Matthew 12:36-37** – “*But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.*”
    - **James 1:19** – “*Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak ...*”
  - c. Our words should be weighed carefully before we speak them for life and death is in the power of our tongue (*Proverbs 18:21*).
9. Vulgar talking and unclean humor
- **Ephesians 5:3-4** – “*...let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; ...Neither filthiness (obscenity), nor foolish talking (folly, idiocy), nor jesting (ribaldry, vulgarity) which are not convenient (proper): but rather giving of thanks.*”
- a. This Scripture is not prohibiting innocent joking or playful bantering. The Greek words in this Scripture refer to vulgar, ribald joking, lewd or suggestive bantering.
  - b. Some jokes and stories may be funny but if they are off-color, dirty or smutty we should not speak them or listen to them.
10. Using the Lord’s name in vain
- **Exodus 20:7** – “*Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.*”
- a. To use the Lord’s name in vain is to use it profanely, irreverently, disrespectfully, sacrilegiously or frivolously.
  - b. The name of the Lord is hallowed and holy – it is to be used only with the greatest respect and honor.
  - c. *Euphemisms* are words or phrases that are substituted for other words and phrases. They are sometimes referred to as “*minced oaths.*” Euphemisms are used because they sound similar to the replaced word or phrase.

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*The Dictionary of American Slang by Wentworth and Flexnor says that the word “gee” originated in 1857 and is a shortened version of the name, Jesus.*

*The Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English by Partridge states that the word “gosh” originated in 1757 and is a corruption of the word, God.*

*According to Webster’s New World Dictionary, the word “golly” is a euphemism for the word God.*

- d. Words and phrases that sound like the name of the Lord or sound like curse words should be avoided because they are in reality referring to the actual thing.
- e. Christians should research and learn the origins of some seemingly innocent sounding words and phrases (*euphemisms*) so that we can be sure that our words and speech is pure and clean before God and others.
  - **Psalm 19:14** – “*Let the words of my mouth...be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD...*”
  - **Psalm 39:1** – “*I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle ...*”
  - **Colossians 4:6** – “*Let your speech be always with grace ...*”

Additional reading material (available through the Pentecostal Publishing House):

*In Search of Holiness*, David K. Bernard

*Essentials of Holiness*, David K. Bernard

*The Beauty of Holiness*, Shirley Engelhardt

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