

How to Live by Grace

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Isaiah 6:1ff.

B. When man sees God on His throne, God's holiness stands out to them.

C. God's holiness describes the absolute moral purity of His character. (1 John 1:5)

D. It is important for us to understand this so that we will worship Him and because He calls us to imitate His holiness in every aspect of our lives. (1 Peter 1:15-16)

II. God has made it possible for us to grow in holiness in this life. (2 Corinthians 3:18; Romans 6:11)

A. We were born into the kingdom of sin and we lived that out in our lives before we were saved. Now, having been transferred into the kingdom of holiness through accepting Christ's justification, we are no longer enslaved to sin and we can grow in holiness. (Romans 6:12)

B. God brings all of His resources into growing us in holiness. He is not mocking us when He says that we should be holy.

III. There are several principles that we can apply to grow in holiness.

A. We must develop convictions for life that depend on scripture.

1) We tend to develop convictions based on our family and our culture, not scripture.

2) Our convictions must be based on the Word of God. However, we need to evaluate our human-formed convictions against the Bible before we decide to change them, because violating our consciences is sin, even if the act itself is not.

B. We must commit to act on our convictions. There are a couple different kinds of commitment with regard to holiness.

1) There is a general commitment to a life of holiness. (Romans 6:11-13)

2) There are specific commitments in regard to particular sins. (Job 31:1; Daniel 1:8; Ezekiel 14:14)

C. In our everyday lives, we must make choices to say "yes" to God and "no" to sin. God has given us the ability to say "no" to temptation. (Titus 2:11-12; Romans 6:11)

D. We must depend on the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit energizes and enables us to say "no" to temptation. (Romans 8:13; John 15:5)

E. We must have a God-centered desire to live a holy life.

1. Many times, our desire for holiness is self-centered and based in our own self-esteem and disappointment in our failure.
2. We must desire to be holy because God is worthy of our obedience.

Application questions:

1. How is holiness possible for you?

2. What motivates a God-centered desire for holiness?

3. As you look over the principles for growing in holiness, what is one area that you can improve in? What can you do or change in your daily life to grow in that area?
