

Holiness – Part 3

Jerry Bridges

I. Introduction.

A. God gives us rich things to enjoy. To determine whether we should eat food nor not, we should ask whether we can thank God in the act. (Genesis 3:6; 1 Timothy 6:17; 4:3)

B. There is a tendency to allow sin to reign in our lives, but God wants us to pursue holiness. (Romans 6:12-13, 19; 1 Corinthians 6:13, 19-20; 9:27)

II. Godly appetites have become perverted through sin. We are not to gratify these desires. (1 Corinthians 9:27; Romans 13:14; James 1:14)

A. We must cut these desires off immediately before they gain a stronghold. (2 Timothy 2:22)

B. We must pursue righteousness.

C. We must hide from temptations. (Proverbs 27:12)

III. We must bring our thought life under control. (Philippians 4:13; Romans 6:19; 12:1)

A. The Spirit most often appeals to us through our minds.

B. The Devil most often appeals to us through our desires.

IV. The Christian life is not a do it yourself religion. Our pursuit of holiness would be useless without faith and the Holy Spirit.

A. Faith is assurance of what is hoped for and a conviction of things not seen. It looks forward to what is unseen and backwards to what God accomplished. (Hebrews 11:3)

B. We have died to sin, so sin can no longer reign in us. (Romans 6:11-12)

C. We have everything we need for the pursuit of holiness. Our responsibility to make every effort is grounded in what God has given us. (2 Peter 1:3-4; Philippians 2:12; Galatians 5:16)

V. Motivation comes from the love of Christ and our love for him. (1 John 3; 2 Corinthians 5:14; Genesis 39; John 14:21)

Application questions:

1. What are some tips for managing your “appetites”?

2. How can one effectively control his or her thought life as a Christian?

3. How can you foster more motivation to live the Christian life?
