

# **Battle for Holiness**

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## I. Introduction.

### II. The arena in which we fight the battle for holiness is this world.

A. We battle with the influence of Satan.

B. We cannot hide from the world because we bring the world with us and because Jesus called us to be in the world. (John 17:15; 1 Corinthians 5:9-10)

C. There are several techniques that we can use to keep from being influenced by the world.

1. We must guard against conforming our values to the world's values. (Ezekiel 12:11ff; Romans 12:2)

2. The battle field of conformity is in our minds, so we must choose what we allow to enter our minds. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)

b) God's standards are often very different from the world's values and we cannot conform to the world. However, we must keep from taking on manmade rules also. (Romans 13:8; 1 Timothy 5:1ff; 1 Timothy 2:10; Colossians 2:20ff)

3. We must make a positive influence on the world. (Matthew 5:13-16, 3-12)

a) Our lives should be a preservative by living according to the Bible.

b) Our lives should provide direction by the positivity in our lives. (Philippians 2:14-15; 1 Peter 3:1-3; Acts 24:24ff)

### III. We must meet the challenge of living in the world with a motivation for holiness.

A. We discover the desire for holiness not by wanting victory, but by wanting obedience.

1. Wanting victory is really self-centered because we want to feel good about ourselves.

2. Terming success or failure in holiness as obedience puts the responsibility on us.

B. The correct motivation for holiness is God's glory. (Revelation 4:11)

1. Sin brings dishonor on God's name.

2. In the moment of pain of saying "no" to the temptation, recognize that God is worth it.

C. Holiness allows us to enjoy God.

1. Christ came to give life. (1 Peter 1:16; John 10:10; Romans 14:17)

2. As we concentrate on bringing God glory, He focuses on making sure we enjoy Him. (John 15:10-11; Philippians 2:12-13)

IV. We need to put down stakes on what we have learned- to make a commitment to holiness. (1 John 2:1)

**Application questions:**

1. How can you consciously develop a desire for holiness in your life?

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2. Consider the thoughts that you allow into your mind and the attitudes you display on a regular basis. What influences those thoughts and attitudes? Is it the world's values you see produced from your thoughts or God's? How can you filter the influences in your life better?

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3. Think about the way people respond to you during the day. What influence does your attitude have on the people and situations around you? How can a holy response impact the situations you face on a daily basis?

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