

THE NECESSITY OF HOLINESS

Hebrews 12:14-17

- I. **PEACE** (14a; Isa 9:6 & 52:7; Rom 5:1; Gal 5:22; 2 Cor 13:11)—wholeness, completeness, well-being, security, harmony in relationship
- A. **Making Every Effort** (Rom 12:18 & 14:19)—personal responsibility
1. **It takes effort.** (Ps 34:14)—peace is not passive, must be pursued
 2. **Not always possible.**
 - a. **Not at any cost** (Jer 8:11; Jn 15:18-20; Jam 4:4)—truth and holiness must be maintained
 - b. **Not one-sided** (1 Cor 7:12-15)—both parties have to be willing
 - c. **Not Enabling Evil** (2 Kin 9:22; Prov 24:11-12; 2 Cor 6:14)—
 3. **Peace should be prioritized.** (Eph 4:1-3)—the desire, goal; way of life
- B. **Being a Peaceable Person** (Col 3:15; 1 Pet 3:8-11; Jam 3:16-18 & 4:1)—don't be the *cause* of trouble or one to *keep it going*.
- C. **Having Peace with Others** (Mat 5:9; 2 Cor 5:18; Eph 2:14-15 & 6:15)—The gospel reconciles relationships, peace with God & others.
- II. **HOLINESS** (14b; Lev 11:45; Mt 5:8; Heb 13:4; 1 Pet 1;15;)
- A. **What Holiness Is** (Lev 20:26; Ps 96:9; 1 Pet 2:9)—
1. **Separated from the world for God** (Lev 20:26; 1 Pet 2:9)—devoted to the service of God
 2. **God's character**—a reflection of His essential nature
- B. **Why Holiness Is Necessary** ()—to have fellowship with God
1. **To See God** (Mat 5:8)—only the pure in heart
 2. **To Be Like Him** (12:10-11; 2 Pet 1:4; 1 Jn 3:2)—partake in his nature

C. What Destroys Holiness

1. **Bitter Root** (Deut 29:18)—a sin that will produce bitter fruit (consequences) for the *entire community*

2. **Sexual Immorality** (1 Cor 6:9-11, 18-20; Gal 5:19, 21; Eph 5:3, 5; Col 3:5; 1 Th 4:3, 7; 1 Pet 2:11; Jude 1:7; Rev 2:14, 20-22)—fornication, adultery, homosexuality and other sexual perversions

3. **Godless like Esau**—profane, irreligious, no sense of spiritual value; sensuality, fleshly minded

a. **Prioritizes the here and now over the eternal.**

b. **Prioritizes comfort and pleasure over spiritual blessing**

III. **GRACE** (15; 2 Cor 6:11; Gal 5:4, 7; Heb 3:12 & 4:16; 1 Pet 1:13)—power of God given to believers that saves and enables them to live a holy life.

A. Grace saves and puts you on the path of righteousness. Salvation is what God does for us, not that we earn or deserve it; He redeems us.

B. Grace enables you to continue and complete the journey. (Tit 2:11-12)—gives power to overcome sin

C. We must avail ourselves of this grace. (Heb 4:16 & 12:25)—take and use it

Listen to Simon Khorolskiy, Holy Is the Lord
https://youtu.be/I_402FDIG_Y