

Milestone of Discipleship

Holiness

When this topic was introduced earlier in the class, we learned that **holiness** is the answer to the question: What am I supposed to _____ as a Christian?

While the knowledge milestone of discipleship focuses on understanding God's Word, this milestone focuses on obeying God's Word. With a general knowledge of Scripture, the disciple can now focus on the _____ aspect of Christianity, i.e., *righteousness*.

People sometimes use the terms holiness and righteousness synonymously, but these two words are important to distinguish.

Holiness is a state of being

Righteousness is the evidence (or outworking) of being.

One example is one that Jesus gave in Matthew 7.

"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is gathered up and thrown into the fire. Thus, you shall recognize them by their fruits." (Matthew 7:15-20)

Someone, therefore, can claim to be holy, but evidence of holiness is measured by righteousness.

Righteousness is the "_____ " of holiness. Holiness is the result of faith.

James 2:18 says, "But someone will say, 'You have faith, and I have works.' Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith _____ ."

"We are saved by faith alone, but saving faith is never alone" (John Calvin)

So, Faith produces holiness, and holiness is seen in righteousness.

Question: Is it possible for a person with genuine faith to continue living as they did before?

Question: Who is the agent of holiness in the life of a believer?

Galatians 5:16-18

"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law."

Works of the Flesh	Fruit of the Spirit
Sexual immorality (behavioral)	Love
Impurity (behavioral)	Joy
Sensuality (behavioral)	Peace
Idolatry (behavioral)	Patience
Sorcery (<i>Pharmakeia</i>) (behavioral)	Kindness
Enmity (emotional)	Goodness
Strife (emotional)	Faithfulness
Jealousy (emotional)	Gentleness
Fits of Anger (emotional)	Self-Control
Rivalries (behavioral)	
Dissensions (behavioral)	
Divisions (behavioral)	
Envy (emotional)	
Drunkenness (behavioral)	
Orgies (behavioral)	
Things like these.	

What responsibility does the believer have to purify themselves?

Three things cause a fire: Heat, fuel, and air. Three things cause holiness: _____, _____, and _____.

Discussion Question:

What, do you think, is the most effective way to address both of these lists?

What is the element in a Christian's life that ensures they walk in the Spirit?

What is the difference between discipline and legalism?

Be sure you do not confuse the two.

What disciplines have you incorporated into your life that have helped you to walk in the Spirit?