

Holiness!

Holiness is a word with which most people are uncomfortable. Few people want to be labeled holy. Most people are comfortable being set apart when it attracts attention for something notable; they accomplished. God is holy because of his being set apart from sin. He cannot look at sin, which is why he looked away from his son, Jesus, while our sin poured into him as he hung on the cross (Isaiah 59:2. 2 Corinthians 5:21, NKJV). We learn in 1 Thessalonians 4:7 that we are called by God into holiness and out of uncleanness. Yet, we live in a world of uncleanness. How do we live holy in an environment that flows with uncleanness? We can only live our holiness through our devotion to God, thus dedicating ourselves to his ways. I remember a fellow worker who excused himself and returned to his work when conversation among the men changed to garish words. He condemned none of them. Neither did he preach to them. He revealed his unspoken holiness through his actions.

Beloved, living our holiness can bring ridicule by those who think we are better than them. In those times we must live Jesus' example of not reviling in return or judging them. Instead, we should remember Jesus' example of humility and forgiveness he showed in washing the feet of his disciples (John 13:15). Shalom

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