

THE HOLINESS OF GOD BY R C SPROUL
CHAPTER 8: BE HOLY BECAUSE I AM HOLY

References (Black book, White book, Kindle)

I. Saint = Separated (191, 155, 1590)

A. What is a saint? (191, 155, 1590)

1. “The saints of Scripture were called saints not because they were already pure but because they were people who were set apart and called to purity.”

B. Are we commanded to be saints? (192, 156, 1598)

1. “Man’s chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.”
2. It can be hard to understand how glorifying and enjoying God go together
3. Glorifying God involves some kind of obedience to God’s law and that doesn’t sound much like fun
4. Seems to be a conflict between my own enjoyment and obeying God’s law – God and his law seem like a barrier to joy
5. Problem caused by failure to distinguish between happiness and pleasure

C. Why do we sin? (194, 158, 1616)

1. “Sin can bring pleasure (not all pleasures are sins) but it never brings happiness.”
2. “It seems silly that anyone who knows the difference between happiness and pleasure would continue to trade happiness for pleasure.”
3. “It seems utterly stupid for a person to do something that he knows will rob him of his happiness.”

D. Why does the Bible call us saints? (195, 158, 1629)

1. Because we have been set apart
2. Because even though animal sacrifices are a thing of the past, we are still called to offer the living sacrifice of ourselves as a thank offering

E. What is a living sacrifice? (196, 160, 1666)

1. Nonconformity
 - a. “The simplistic way of not conforming is to see what is in style in our culture and then do the opposite.”
 - b. God calls us to a deeper kind of non-conformity – a deeper level of righteousness that goes beyond externals
2. Transformation
 - a. A *nonconformist* is someone who is not of or out of the world but a *transformist* is someone who rises above the world – a call to transcendent excellence
 - b. The key to a transformed life is the renewal of the mind – disciplined education in the things of God and mastery of the Word of God

- c. We need to have the same mind, values, and priorities as Jesus – cannot happen without mastery of His Word
- d. “The key to spiritual growth is in-depth Christian education that requires a serious level of sacrifice”

II. Saint = Sanctified (200, 163, 1677)

A. Justification (200, 163, 1683)

- 1. Luther describes Christians with a Latin phrase that means “at the same time just and sinner”
- 2. “Saints are just because they have been justified.”
- 3. “Not only does Christ take our sins, our debts, and our demerits, but He also gives us His obedience, His assets, and His merits.”
- 4. “True faith always produces real conformity to Christ.”

B. Sanctification (203, 165, 1701)

- 1. “There is no time lapse between our justification and the *beginning* of our sanctification. But there is a great time lapse between our justification and the *completion* of our sanctification.”
- 2. Analogy of the sick man who begins to heal the moment the medicine touches his lips
- 3. Degrees of sin
 - a. Two truths that confuse us
 - i. “We tend to think that sin is sin and that no sin is greater than any other.”
 - ii. “We are aware that the Bible teaches if we sin against one point of the law, we sin against the whole law.”
 - b. Even small sins violate the whole law but that does not imply that every sin is as wicked as any other
 - c. Although all sins are acts of treason against God, we need to identify those with more/less significance so that we don’t major in the minors
- 4. Fruit of the Spirit
 - a. The virtues we are called to cultivate through practice with the help of the Holy Spirit
 - b. “There is nothing easy about becoming holy. Yet, the Bible does make it easy for us to know what holiness is supposed to look like.”