

Holy and Happy – Part 2

Romans 8; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 4-30-2023

*“Holiness is the royal road to happiness.
The death of sin is the life of joy.” – Charles Spurgeon*

¹² So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³ for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. – Romans 8:12-14

God puts to death sin in our lives while we take responsibility for doing so! - Joshua 1:2, 3, 6; 10:25; 23:3, 10

The Problem of Pharisaical Holiness

Can we pursue holiness in unholy ways? The Pharisees were concerned about sin and holiness in all the wrong ways.

- Ignoring the big things, majoring on the minors* – Matthew 23:23; Luke 11:42
- Ignoring the spirit of the law and focusing on the letter* – Matthew 19:16-22
- Being concerned about how you look on the outside but not concerned about your heart* – Matthew 23:25-28; Luke 12:1-2
- Condemning others and showing mercy to yourself, more concerned about putting to death other people’s sins* – John 8:2-11
- Running away from ‘the filthy unwashed masses’* – Matthew 9:10-13
- Making up your own sin lists* – Matthew 15:1-9
- Fighting sin with sin* – John 5:8-18; Romans 12:17
- Depending on your own righteousness with pride* – Luke 18:9-14

The Tree of Death

Sin can be pictured as a tree with a root (unbelief), a trunk (idolatry) and fruit (disobedience). We see the fruit of sin but often ignore the root and trunk and therefore, do not make progress in our fight to put sin to death in our lives.

So how do we ‘put to death the deeds of the body by the Spirit’?

1. Feed on the truth and attack the root of unbelief.

“I think/believe _____!”

Eve listened to the Serpent’s lie. – Genesis 3:1-5

- We need to fight and put to death wrong thinking/believing. – Jeremiah 3:15; John 8:31-32, 36; 14:17; 15:26; 16:13; Ephesians 6:17; Galatians 6:6-10; Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:20-24; Hebrews 3:12, 19
- Unbelief is not believing nothing, but rather, believing lies or what is false. – Romans 1:25; 2 Thessalonians 2:8-12
- Refuse to live by lies.
- Feed your soul on the truth: get into the Word daily. – Psalm 119:160; 1:1-3; John 17:17
- The truth is what sets us free.

2. Fix your hope on God and attack the trunk of idolatry.

“I want/desire/hope in _____!”

Eve transferred her hope from God to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. – Genesis 3:6

- We need to fight and put to death wrong desires that rule us. – 1 Peter 1:13-15; 1 John 3:3
- Prayer is a key to fixing our hope on God. - Romans 12:12; 1 Timothy 5:5; Psalm 38:15
- Prayer is a key to depending on the Spirit. – Romans 8:25-27; Ephesians 6:18; Philippians 1:19; Luke 11:13
- The root of unbelief (wrong thinking and believing) shapes the trunk of idolatry (wrong desires/feelings/hopes). - Romans 1:25

3. Fight with a No to sin and a Yes to love and attack the fruit of disobedience.

“I will/choose/do _____!”

Eve ate the forbidden fruit. Then Adam ate the forbidden fruit. – Genesis 3:6

- The fruit of unbelief and idolatry is disobedience. - Hebrews 4:6, 11
- We need to fight and put to death wrong behaviors (things we do with our minds and mouths and members/bodies). – James 1:13-16
 - Sinful thought patterns – Ephesians 2:3
 - Sinful Words – Ephesians 4:29
 - Sinful Actions – Romans 6:12-14

The Sanctified No! – Matthew 4:1-11

- We need to say No to sin and Yes to love in dependence on the Spirit. – Galatians 5:16-25

Do you really want to be happy?

Are you reconciled to God?

Are you putting to death sin?