

Hebrews 5:1-4

Check Yourself!

In the work of the kingdom and the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the greatest obstacle is often the people of God who are the ones proclaiming the message. Who we are is crucial, the nature of our lives frames the nature of our testimony which defines the effective scope of our impact for the Kingdom; just as Christ's Own nature also defined His impact on and ability to fulfill His calling and accomplish His work.

I. CHRIST'S HOLINESS IS KEY

The absolute holiness of Christ is the main reason that God honored His sacrifice. No one else, no other priest, no other kind of man besides a holy one could have done what He did. Had He had any sin of His own, His sacrifice **COULD NOT** have been applied to us.

a. He had no part, interest or gain personally from His death in our place –

Hebrews 7.26-28

- i. It was pure mercy
- ii. Undiluted grace
- iii. He became poor for our sakes, His Love to the end is demonstrated in this –

Philippians 2.5-6

- b. His sacrifice was made beautiful by the spirit of obedience in which it was offered. –

Philippians 2.7-11

- i. Total innocence
- ii. Complete love and obedience
- iii. The most terrible suffering all wed in this one act of humility

- c. His Perfect Example is set before us. –

1Peter 2:21

Revelation 1.4-6

II. OUR HOLINESS IS JUST AS IMPORTANT! –

when we deal with someone about their sin, we should be clear and clean in the sight of God regarding our own sin.

a. You must be certain of your own salvation –

2 Corinthians 13.5

b. We need to be actively engaged in the work of fighting for holiness –

Romans 6.16-19

i. It is God's desire for the church –

1Thessalonians 3.11-13

ii. It is God's purpose in saving us –

1Thessalonians 4.3-8

Titus 2.11-14

iii. It brings glory to God when we walk in holiness

Titus 2.1-9

c. We are called to urge others towards Christ

i. Speak the gospel - you cannot speak what you do not know

Romans 10.9-18

ii. Plead with them for the sake of their eternal souls

2Corinthians 5.12-21

iii. But how can we explain or urge in what we ourselves do not know?

d. We are called to urge and entreat others to trust, to cast themselves on the mercy of God; we testify of the mercy we know -

1 Peter 1.3-5

- i. but how can we offer what we do not know?
- ii. How can you help someone to fly to Christ when you yourself are unsure of your welcome there?

e. Everyone Requires an Offering for Sin - the high priest of Israel had to offer one for himself, the king of Israel had to offer one; from the lowest servant to the highest lord to the gentile slave in their midst, all must have their sin covered.

III. CHRIST REQUIRES NO OFFERING,

a. He is the perfect offering that no other could ever hope to be, nothing stand between Him and acceptance in the sight of God. He IS ACCEPTED...

Hebrews 9.11-15

b. in the OT this was part of the darkness and the hopelessness that ensued from having NO ONE righteous to lead the way, to intercede, to

actually secure forgiveness. For they still had to offer them continually for themselves. –

Hebrews 10.1-4

- i. And that meant that NO ONE was accepted on their own merit.
 - ii. Further, it also meant that no one was ever truly free.
- c. It does have a measure of comfort for sinners when they know that we also sin and that God does not cast us out for our sin but rather that He forgives and even is the one who provides the sacrifice that purchases our forgiveness.
- d. But the real power of hope comes from the spotless and perfect nature of the One who gave Himself for us, who shed His own blood to purchase the pardon that frees us. That perfect blood is far too precious to be ignored, and NOTHING will ever be so terrible that the Blood of Jesus could not cover it and cleanse it. He is THAT good...

Romans 8.37-39

e. This is the message that we who are fallen and forgiven carry with us, the message of hope in Christ,

- i. but we must also be honest about our own sin
- ii. Confess, repent and re-aim
- iii. Establish patterns and habits that prevent rather than promote sin
- iv. Keep short books with God and man
- v. Work with all you have, strive to remove any hinderance that might keep someone from trusting in the Christ who is our Lord.