

Holy and Happy – Part 3

Romans 8:12-14; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 5-7-2023

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

Holy and Happy

- God created us to be holy and happy in God and His love.
- The key to happiness is holiness.
- The key to holiness is faith.

The New Man

- New Position* (Romans 5): Forgiven and Righteous
- New Person* (Romans 6-7): Free from Sin’s Reign but Battling Sin’s Assault
- New Power* (Romans 8): Overcoming Indwelling Sin by the Indwelling Spirit

The Tree of Death

We need to know our enemy and it is helpful to picture sin as a tree with root, trunk and fruit. – Genesis 2:9, 15-17

1. **The Root of Unbelief: Believing Lies**

- Eve listened to the lies of the serpent. – Genesis 3:1-5
- Unbelief is the root of disobedience. – Hebrews 3:19; 4:6
- Unbelief is believing a lie. – Romans 1:25; 2 Thessalonians 2:8-12; John 8:44
- Application: *“What lies am I believing?”*

2. **The Trunk of Idolatry: Hoping in Creation for Help and Happiness**

- Eve transferred her hope for help and happiness from God to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. – Genesis 3:6
- The root of unbelief (wrong thinking and believing) shapes the trunk of idolatry (wrong desires/feelings/hopes). - Romans 1:25
- Application: *“Where have I misplaced my hope?”*

3. **The Fruit of Disobedience: Sinful Thought Patterns and Words and Deeds**

- 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
- Sinful Thought Patterns - Romans 1:28, 29, 30, 31
- Sinful Words - Romans 1:29-30, 32
- Sinful Deeds - Romans 1:24, 26, 28-29, 30, 31
- Application: *“What is wrong with what I am thinking or saying or doing (or not thinking or saying or doing)?”*

Putting to Death Sin

1. *Feed on the Truth of God's Word*

- We overcome lies that enslave us to sin through the Truth. – John 8:31-32, 36
- The Spirit is the Spirit of Truth who uses the Word to put to death sin in our lives. – John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13; Ephesians 6:17; Galatians 6:6-8
- We are transformed by the renewing of our minds because our slavery to sin is the result of believing lies. – Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:22-24
- Feed your soul on the truth: get into the Word daily. – Psalm 119:160; John 17:17

2. *Fix Your Hope on God for Help and Happiness*

- Where our hope is fixed makes a difference in our living. – 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
- We are to fight 'lusts' (wrong desires/idolatry) with the promises of God. – 2 Peter 1:2-4

3. *Fight with a No to Sin and a Yes to Love according to God's Word*

- 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 – Matthew 9:4; Ephesians 2:3; 2 Corinthians 10:5; Ephesians 4:26; John 14:1, 27
 - 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; 1 John 5:3

Faith in the Love of God

- No condemnation: our sin does not define us.
- No separation: our suffering does not define us.
- No fear: faith in perfect love delivers us from fear and makes us happy.

The key to happiness is holiness. The key to holiness is faith. The heart of faith is trust in the love of God promised in Jesus. (Romans 15:13; 1 John 4:16-18; Ephesians 3:14-21) There are no perfect Christians in this fallen world and therefore, there is no perfect happiness in this fallen world. But we can be happier in God than we are through the pursuit of holiness. And one day we will be made perfect and we will know perfect happiness in God through Jesus our Lord!

“According to my judgement the most important point to be attended to is this: above all things see to it that your souls are happy in the Lord. Other things may press upon you, ... but I deliberately repeat, it is of supreme and paramount importance that you should seek above all things to have your souls truly happy in God Himself! – George Mueller