

The Holy Spirit

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CHAPTER 18: THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT IN PURGING
BELIEVERS FROM SIN

CHAPTER 19: THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT IN RENEWING
THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF BELIEVERS

Ch. 18: THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT IN *PURGING* BELIEVERS FROM SIN

Q: How is the Word of God made effectual to salvation?

A: The Holy Spirit

(Question # 155 Westminster Larger Catechism)

What is the role of the Holy Spirit in purging believers from sin?

It is the Spirit's work to purify us, cleanse us, and remove sins from us.

The blood of Christ is sufficient to cleanse us from ALL our sins.
(Is. 1:18; John 16:8)

The actual application by *faith* of Christ's blood for cleansing lies in 4 things: (Owen, pg. 146)

1. We must look by *faith* to Christ's blood as shed on the cross for our sins.
2. *Faith* actually trusts in and relies on Christ's blood for cleansing from all sin.
3. *Faith* fervently prays for that cleansing blood to be applied.
4. *Faith* accepts the truth and faithfulness of God to cleanse by the blood of Christ.

This leads to “the Holy Spirit applying the cleansing, purifying virtue of the blood of Christ to our souls and consciences so that we are freed from shame and have boldness toward God.” (Owen p.147)

- Hebrews 4:16
- Hebrews 10:19-22

2 Evidences of a Sincere Faith:

1 Peter 1:22

- Inwardly, it purifies the heart
- Outwardly, it works by love

Troubles are sent to purge us from sin:

Isaiah 48:10; Hebrews 12:5-6

Under the Dominion of Sin & its
Judgment, troubles are a...

↓
Curse

↓
Result in further sin

Under Grace,
troubles are...

↓
Sanctifying

↓
Result in holiness

Troubles are God's appointed means to make us more holy as He is holy by...

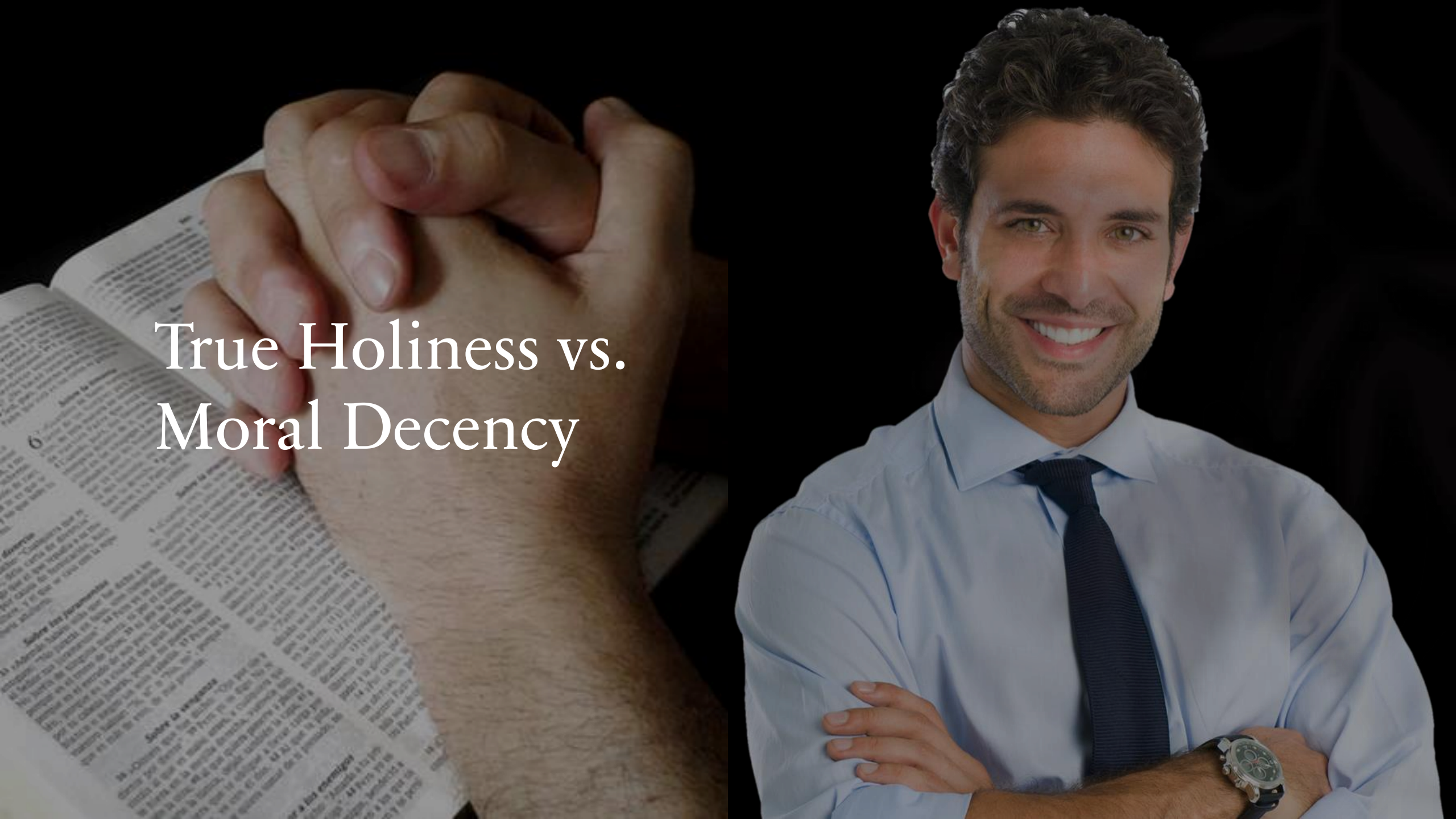
1. Disciplining and Correcting us (Hebrews 12:5-6)

2. Helping us rely less upon created things for our comfort and rejoice more on things in Christ (Galatians 6:14)

3. Helping us to kill our lusts and corrupt desires (2 Cor. 4:16-18)

Duties of believers in response to all that Christ has done for us in cleansing our sin and for the Holy Spirit's help in purging our sin:

1. "...be in continual self-abasement..." (Titus 3:5, Eph. 2:11-13)
2. "...be continually thankful for that deliverance from the original pollution from sin which Christ has given you..." (Rev. 1:5-6)
3. Watch against all sin, especially its early stirrings in the heart (1 Cor. 3:16-17)
4. Walk humbly before the Lord, remembering that our best works are as filthy rags (Is. 64:6)
5. Endeavor to starve the root of sin (James 1:13-15)
6. Continually come to Jesus Christ for cleansing by His Spirit (Romans 12:1)



True Holiness vs. Moral Decency

CHAPTER 19:

THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT IN *RENEWING* THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF BELIEVERS

5 Points Owen makes about the Holy Spirit Renewing the Spiritual life of believers:

1. Holiness
2. Union with Christ
3. Duties of the believer
4. Hindrances to holiness
5. How to know whether our graces & duties are truly fruits and evidence of election

Holiness (Deut. 4:2)

2 Doctrines learned from obedience and holiness:

1. A supernatural work of grace and holiness is wrought and preserved in the minds and souls of all believers.

2. "In every act of obedience whether internal only, such as believing and loving, or external also, in good works, a direct work of grace in the believer by the Holy Spirit is necessary."

Union with Christ

Our union with Christ is predicated on the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit and necessary to further our sanctification.

Duties of the Believer:

“We must carefully and diligently cherish and take care of this new spiritual life born in us...” *Don't take your regeneration for granted!*

We are also to allow our renewed spiritual being to reveal itself by its fruits.

Hindrances to Holiness:

Laziness & Procrastination

Colossians 3:2

Do you find spiritual duties light & easy *OR* heavy & burdensome?

How to know whether our graces & duties are truly fruits and evidence of election

1. Are these graces growing and increasing in us? (John 4:14)
2. Does God's electing love stir us up to a diligent use of these graces? (Romans 5:2-5)
3. Are those graces of holiness making us more like Christ? (Eph. 5:1-2)

Conclusion

"All grace and holiness comes from Christ, none from ourselves. The direct cause of all gospel holiness is the

HOLY SPIRIT!"