

*Walls into Windows – Week 3*  
*Holiness*

What's up, Church?!?! I hope everyone is feeling good this morning. Im so grateful you are here.

CHC is a place where your presence matters, your story matters....we are honored to spend some time together today.

If today is one of your first times, thanks for coming and checking us out. We would love to connect.

We are in week 3 of a series we are calling walls into windows. This series is all about God's design for relationships.

We are using walls to windows because for some of our relationships there are walls in the way. We can't seem to get through...We are going to see why God desires to remove the walls that separate and divide us and replace them with windows that will help connect and unite us.

This is so important to me. Relationships are everything for us.

I believe this is an area where the enemy gets a lot of wins.  
Marriages | Parent/child | Siblings | In-laws | Co-workers

2 of our core values here at CHC are focused on relationships.

**Healthy God-Centered Families**  
**Real Relationships**

Week 1 we talked about the role of humility in relationships. Vital attribute that must be present for any relationship to thrive. Typically, when humility isn't there is because someone needs to get over themselves. (6 ways to know.)

Week 2 we talked about honor. My lack of honor puts walls where windows should be.

God has given us a plan for this...**While most people fight to receive honor, God calls us, Christians to focus our efforts on giving honor.**

This brings us up to today. Before I give you the attribute we are going to study today, I want to give a clear warning.

There are parts of the Bible that are tough to live out. We don't just leave these out and ignore them because they are a little uncomfortable.

This one takes maturity. Humility and honor. Today we are looking at -- **A Call to Holiness.**

In a world marked by chaos and moral decay, God beckons His children to a higher standard of living—a life of holiness.

What even is holiness? Does that mean I have to be perfect, and I can never mess up?

**Biblical holiness refers to the concept of being set apart or consecrated for a sacred purpose.**

It is a state of moral and spiritual purity, guided by adherence to God's commands and a dedication to living a righteous life.

It encompasses a commitment to living in accordance with God's will and embodying virtues such as love, humility, and obedience.

I want to be very clear here today. We are not talking about going back to a legalistic way of living. Follow all these rules and then you are holy.

**Isaiah 64.6 | <sup>6</sup> But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; (KJV)**

Illustration: I want to try and illustrate it like this. My wife, Shira, is from PEI Canada. We've known each other for over 22 years. I have only been to her house during the winter months, 1 time. It's too cold! When I did go, it was December of 2003. It started snowing. She lives next to a church that has a small hill, so we walked over to go sledding. I look out at this beautiful unbothered snow. We went down it 100 times, and it was no longer this glistening spectacle. It was filled with dirt and mud, and footprints.

God's holiness is like the snow on top of the hills or mountains. We are unholy like the mud, the dirt, and the footprints.

How can the two mix? How can we like the dirty snow relate to God, who is more pure than the snow on the mountain? How can we relate to God?

The book Leviticus defines the way sinful people can relate to God.

**Leviticus 20.7-8 | <sup>7</sup> Consecrate yourselves and be holy, for I am the LORD your God. <sup>8</sup> Keep my statutes and do them; I am the LORD who sets you apart. (CSB)**

**Leviticus 20.7-8 | <sup>7-8</sup> "Set yourselves apart for a holy life. *Live* a holy life, because I am GOD, your God. Do what I tell you; *live* the way I tell you. I am the GOD who makes you holy. (MSG)**

If I can dwindle all of this down to one sentence to help us understand.

## **Holiness is a call to be set apart as God's people.**

I want to focus on this set apart portion but before we go there I think we have to have a clear Biblical understanding of ourselves. (This is really a 6-8 week course, but we are going to knock it out in about 10 minutes)

## **Holiness starts with Salvation.**

The absolute first step in holiness is making a commitment to Jesus Christ as your savior. Only then can you begin to walk in a manner worthy of your calling to holiness. Believers must no longer live by sinful worldly passions but by the will of God.

Basic definition of the word Salvation is deliverance from danger or suffering. To save is to deliver or protect.

Protect or deliver from what?

Gen. 1 - Man was created in the image of God // perfect, blameless, spotless // created to be in an everlasting relationship with God!

Gen. 3 – Sin, wickedness, or evil entered into the world through man and he was cursed to death // Romans 5 eludes back to this and tells us that all humans were declared guilty bc of Adams sin and that resulted in judgment and condemnation.

## **Romans 6.23 - For the wages of sin is death... (we are all sinners and deserve death)**

Our sin has separated us from God, and the consequence of sin is death.

We have to experience biblical salvation in order to have freedom from the eternal consequences of sin.

Something to note: We may be forgiven by God, but we still have to experience the penalty for sins. If I go out today and rob a bank, I still go to jail. There is still a penalty.

Salvation brings us restoration with God. We are now back in right fellowship with Him.

There are three stages of salvation we must understand:

**Justification** – God instantly forgives us of all sins past, present, and future. We are made “right” in the eyes of God.

**Sanctification** – although we are forgiven we still have a sin nature that has not died yet. Sanctification is the lifelong process in which we die more and more to ourselves and we

conform more and more into the image of Christ. We strive to be what God already sees us as. This process will not be complete until Christ comes back or we die.

**Glorification** – Christ comes back, takes our sinful bodies and purifies them and destroys our sin nature. In essence, our new bodies will be like Christ. We will be clothed in His righteousness.

So, during sanctification, we are already forgiven by God because of the work of Christ but we must still strive to move towards what God already sees us as....which is Holy.

Another helpful way to understand sanctification is as cleansing or to be dedicated.

It means to center your life around God and his presence. It is how God's people should live.

Let's go back to those two words....set apart

**1 Peter 1.14-16 | <sup>14</sup> As obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires of your former ignorance. <sup>15</sup> But as the one who called you is holy, you also are to be holy in all your conduct; <sup>16</sup> for it is written, Be holy, because I am holy.**

When Peter repeats the Lord's words, he is talking specifically to believers. As believers, we need to be "set apart" from the world unto the Lord. We need to be living by God's standards, not the worlds.

**God isn't calling us to be perfect, but to be distinct from the world.**

How can I, or we be set-apart?

Before we look at ways that we can be set-apart, let me ask a question or two.

What do you think about when you hear the word, Laws? Rules? Commands?

Some of them good...some of them are holding me back...I like the no murdering laws, but the speed limit ones, yeah not so much.

Sometimes we can look at Gods list of commands as....uhhh I don't know. I don't think that's a big deal.

**1 John 5.3 | For this is what love for God is: to keep his commands. And his commands are not a burden...**

God's commands are expressions of His love. They are to keep you and I from harm. Emotional, physical, and spiritual harm.

If we look at God's commands in any other way, we will find ourselves with walls up instead of windows.

**Obedience to God's commands, is the outward expression of your love for God.**

If you have an obedience problem, you have a love problem. Your relationship with God reveals what you believe about Him.

Ok, let's begin to land the plan here. How can I be set-apart? I want to embrace a life of holiness, what does that look like practically in 2024?

### **1. Cultivate a heart of obedience to God's Word**

**Psalm 119.9-11 | How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping your word. <sup>10</sup>I have sought you with all my heart; don't let me wander from your commands. <sup>11</sup>I have treasured your word in my heart so that I may not sin against you.**

If I am going to obey God's word, I have to spend time in God's Word.

The Bible is often described as spiritual food for the soul.

The Bible reveals God's character, attributes, and purposes. Through its pages, we come to know who God is, how He interacts with humanity, and what He desires for His creation.

The Bible serves as a guidebook for life, offering timeless wisdom and practical insights for navigating various situations and challenges. It provides principles for moral living, guidance for decision-making, and examples of faith to emulate.

The Bible equips Christians for ministry and service. It provides the foundation for teaching, preaching, counseling, and discipleship. By studying Scripture, believers are equipped to share the gospel, make disciples, and fulfill the Great Commission.

The Bible has the power to transform our character, renew our minds, and conform us to the image of Christ.

How can I be set apart? Fall in love with the Word of God. Cultivate a heart of obedience.

### **2. Flee from sin and pursue righteousness.**

**2 Timothy 2.22 | <sup>22</sup>Flee from youthful passions, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.**

Being set apart includes fleeing from sexual immorality, impurity, lust and other sins.

It means rejecting ungodly attitudes like greed, anger, and bitterness.

An easy way I try to remember this and work through this. **Recognize and Repent**

Recognize: The first step in fleeing from sin is to recognize it. This requires self-examination and a willingness to confront areas of our lives that are not aligned with God's will.

Repentance: Repentance involves a change of heart and mind, turning away from sin and turning toward God. Christians should acknowledge their sins, confess them to God, and seek His forgiveness and pursue His righteousness.

### 3. Practice purity in thought, speech, and action.

**Philippians 4.8 | <sup>8</sup> Finally brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable—if there is any moral excellence and if there is anything praiseworthy—dwell on these things.**

Your thoughts are vital here...If you're going to win the battle for holiness, you have to win the battle inside.

"Oh I cant do that."

Each of us has a conscience.... Your conscience is your warning system placed in your soul to prevent you from destroying yourself spiritually.

My conscience either accuses or excuses. Capture my thoughts and put them next to the Word of God. Think on the things He tells me to.

Speech – Words matter. They strengthen or strangle.

**Ephesians 4.25 | Therefore, putting away lying, speak the truth, each one to his neighbor, because we are members of one another.**

For some of you, the reason there are walls up is because you can't stop lying.

**Ephesians 4.29 | <sup>29</sup> No foul language should come from your mouth, but only what is good for building up someone in need, so that it gives grace to those who hear.**

Your speech is something that can set you apart from the rest of the world. That guy is different, that lady doesn't talk like everyone else...I wonder why?

Let your speech reflect Christ.

Actions – Serving others first. Serving the church first. Loving your neighbors. Showing the fruits of the spirit in your daily life.

Walk in love and humility toward others.

**James 3.17-18 | <sup>17-18</sup> Real wisdom, God’s wisdom, begins with a holy life and is characterized by getting along with others. It is gentle and reasonable, overflowing with mercy and blessings, not hot one day and cold the next, not two-faced. You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results *only* if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor.**

Practice these things. Put them into real life situations.

In all of these areas, thoughts, speech, actions, here is the question only you can answer:

**Am I bringing fame to Jesus or shame to Jesus?**

May our pursuit of holiness be marked by humility, grace, and a relentless pursuit of God's presence.

Conclusion:

I believe if we would answer this call to holiness, it would transform so many of our relationships. It would remove walls.

Striving for holy living isn’t about being perfect, it’s about being set-apart. It’s about living different so that people can see and experience Christ through your life.

It starts with Salvation....take that step today.

It works itself out through Sanctification....

God wants our Surrender...