



HOLINESS AND WITNESS

1. Holiness is central to our witness

In Acts 1:8, Jesus calls His followers to be witnesses. Witness is not limited to proclamation; it includes the integrity of our lives.

One of the primary ways we bear witness to Jesus is through holy, set-apart living.

2. Biblical holiness means being set apart by God

In 1 Peter 2:9–12, believers are described as:

- A chosen people
- A royal priesthood
- A holy nation
- God's special possession

This identity is not achieved but received through grace.

Holiness means living in a way that reflects that we belong to God and are set apart for His purposes.

3. Holiness flows from a transformed worldview

Holiness is not primarily about external rule-keeping.

It is the result of living from a different story shaped by the gospel.

What we believe about:

- God
- Human purpose
- Identity
- Eternity

...inevitably shapes how we live. A transformed belief system produces a distinct way of life.

4. Holiness makes our witness visible

1 Peter emphasizes that people can be drawn to faith through observing Christian conduct.

There are situations where words alone are insufficient—our lives must embody the message.

A life marked by:

- Integrity
- Faithfulness
- Selflessness
- Moral clarity

...gives visible expression to the gospel we proclaim.

5. Holiness makes our witness compelling

Titus 2:10 teaches that our lives can “adorn” or make the gospel attractive.

The truth of the gospel is inherently beautiful, but it is clarified and reinforced through lived expression.

Practices such as:

- Forgiveness
- Generosity
- Compassion
- Steadfastness in difficulty

...serve as tangible evidence of God's transforming work.

6. Holiness must be expressed with humility, not legalism

The call to holiness has historically been distorted into judgmentalism or spiritual pride.

When holiness becomes performative or comparative, it undermines our witness.

Authentic holiness:

- Flows from grace, not superiority
- Invites rather than alienates
- Points beyond self to Christ

7. A practical expression of kingdom identity

Holiness is both:

A positional reality (we are made holy in Christ)

A practical calling (we live in alignment with that identity)

It is expressed through everyday faithfulness:

- Ethical consistency
- Relational integrity
- Intentional obedience

A holy life becomes a lived apologetic—a visible and compelling testimony to the reality of Jesus.

Connect Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. What's one small habit or quirk you have that makes you different from most people?
2. What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?

Study & Discussion:

3. Peter grounds holiness in identity ("chosen," "set apart," "God's possession"). How does understanding holiness as something we receive (not achieve) change the way you approach spiritual growth? Where do you still tend to default to performance over identity?
4. The sermon suggests that holiness flows from believing a different story about reality. In what areas of your life do your daily choices most clearly reflect a "different story"? Where might your life still mirror the surrounding culture more than the way of Jesus?

5. 1 Peter points to the power of witness "without words." Think of a relationship where words about faith have already been spoken—or may not be received. What would it look like for your life to become the primary expression of the gospel in that relationship?
6. Holiness can either draw people in or push them away depending on how it's expressed. Have you ever experienced (personally or observed) a version of Christianity that felt more judgmental than compelling? What do you think distinguishes a life that makes the gospel attractive from one that distorts it?

Practice of the Week: "Live Distinctively" (Holiness as Witness)

This week, intentionally choose one area of your life to live differently in a way that reflects your identity in Christ. Notice how it opens doors for witness and deepens your own awareness of God at work.

1. Ask God to show you where to be distinct

- Pray for discernment about one part of your life where your choices could visibly reflect Jesus—something that might stand out in a world shaped by different values.

2. Identify one tangible area to live differently

Examples could include:

- How you manage your money or time (e.g., generosity, Sabbath rest)
- How you respond to conflict or criticism (e.g., patience, forgiveness)
- How you treat people who are difficult or marginalized
- Work ethic, service, or integrity in professional spaces. Pick one specific, observable area—not a vague goal

3. Take one intentional step this week

Examples:

- Choose humility over status in a conversation or meeting

- Forgive someone who has wronged you, showing restraint and grace
- Offer help, encouragement, or presence to someone who would not expect it
- Make a practice of honesty, integrity, or generosity in a setting where it will be noticeable

5. Reflect at the end of the week

- How did living differently affect your perspective, your relationships, or your witness?
- Did anyone notice or respond?
- What did you learn about holiness, identity, and the gospel through this action?