

BE YE HOLY

By: Phillip Hayes

*"Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy"
[1Peter 1:16]*

I have never met a real Christian that did not want to live a holy life. However, I have met many that didn't want to submit to carnal "holiness" standards that men have imposed. Having said that, the standards of holy living you will find in this article are Bible based and in no way supportive of many of the standards imposed by various Christian organizations.

God has called His people into a spiritual kingdom that far exceeds the world's standards. Old time holiness preachers use to say, "The world has gotten so churchy, and the church as gotten so worldly, you can't tell them apart". They would not believe what the church has become today!

When I was in High School in the late fifties, the girls were not allowed to wear shorts or pants or tight fitting clothes to school. The boys were not allowed to have long hair or wear tight fitting jeans. The public schools had standards for how their students must dress! If you broke those rules, you were expelled from school! Isn't it remarkable that the public school system of the forties, fifties and early sixties had a greater standard than most Christians today. When I think back to those times I remember that the Baptists, Methodists and other main line denominations had a stricter standard than the schools! The

standards of Pentecostal and holiness churches were even stricter! I realize many of those standards the churches imposed were not entirely Bible based, but they did have moral implications.

People continue to tell me, "but Brother Hayes, times have changed!" And I certainly agree that times have indeed changed; but the Word of God has not changed, and will never change! What God demanded of His people in times past, He demands today! He is still calling His elect to holiness, and saying, "*Come out from among the world and be ye separate.*"

The manner of dress has changed drastically from Bible times, but the Word of God has remained the same throughout the ages. The Apostles of old reminded the church over and over what God expected of them concerning not only the inward man but also the outward man.

I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting. In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works (1Timothy 2:8-10).

It is crystal clear that the Apostle Paul is speaking to those that profess Christ as their Savior, and he is telling them how they should dress!

Amazing isn't it! Try telling folks today how they should dress and see how fast they withdraw themselves from you! Tell the women that are professing Christ that they must dress modestly: no tight fitting or revealing clothing. You tell them they should not make themselves up with fancy hair styles, or they should not wear excessive jewelry or costly clothing, but they should dress as women that profess godliness. No one can dispute the fact that the Apostles did instruct the church how they should appear in

public!

The Word of God says, *"To be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life."* Men and women that continually worry over their outward appearance in an attempt to attract the opposite sex to them are the carnal minded. Their mindset is to look appealing, look attractive, look sexy!

I am not saying that women or men shouldn't present themselves as best they can. But, if a woman is spiritually minded, she would seek only to please her husband and God in the way she presented herself to others. The Word of God tells us to *"abstain from all appearances of evil!"* A person that is spiritually minded will seek to appear as a righteous and godly person and would never dress in such a way that he or she might entice another person.

Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands (1Peter 3:1-5).

Peter is telling the women of his day that when they adorn themselves to not dress according to the world. But rather to dress the inside! To mind those things which are spiritual and put on the ornaments of a meek and quiet spirit. Today, men and women are obsessed with their outward appearance.

And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath

said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty (2Corinthians 6:16-18). Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God (2Corinthians 7:1).

Come out from among them? Be ye separate? Cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit? Yes! God has called us unto holiness! We should do all we can to be holy inside, *and* outside! We are the Lord's witnesses in this evil world. And if the world cannot look at you and tell that you are different from them, you are no witness! I know, I know, everybody is preaching inward holiness only. Well, I tell you of a truth that they are deceived. Jesus said that you can tell a tree by the fruit it bears and that law has never changed. And why in the world would someone want to hide the fact they were a Christian by appearing like the world? The fact is most folks are embarrassed to dress the way Christians should dress! They don't want anyone to laugh or mock them. They want to "fit in" with the crowd. Well, Jesus said, "If you were ashamed of Him, He would be ashamed of you!" People today don't want to suffer any reproach for being a Christian. I have met many throughout our travels that were very religious. Although they smoke, dip, chew, get drunk, dress ungodly but love to go to church. They love to sing and shout, but when it comes to outward holiness, they won't have it.

What is wrong? Preachers have compromised the Word of God. They have become spiritual wimps, dumb dogs that won't bark! They speak smooth things, soft words saying, "God doesn't care how you dress, don't you know it's

only what's on the inside that counts."

Oh, how I wish you could see what is going on! The devil is destroying the witness of the True Church in this generation! These liars twist the scriptures just enough to deceive.

But not all the fault for this backslidden generation is the preachers. Church members have been overwhelmed by the lure of the world. The devil has tricked many into believing they can have the world, be like the world, sin a little every day, and still go to Heaven. And because their heart has been slowly turned from God and toward the world, the devil has given them leaders that will tickle their ears and tell them what they want to hear. It all begins in the heart!

The people today want smooth messages. They don't want to be corrected! A couple that once attended a Charismatic church in Virginia were not allowed to even say the word "repent". Can you believe that? The Pastor there didn't want to offend anyone, and he felt if you preached repentance, you were judging others! How stupid can you be!

Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits: Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us (Isaiah 30:10-11).

There it is! Isaiah spoke of this evil we are witnessing. When you let a congregation decide and dictate what the Word is saying, I will show you an assembly of people that are far from God.

God set in the church Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers. You can't appoint these men! God has already put them in the church! Men of God need to take authority in their church and demand the people to live godly accordingly to the standards outlined in the Word of

God. After hearing the truth there will be those that still persist in living worldly, and that refuse to live godly in this present world. They are demonstrating their open rebellion and lack of commitment to God. The Lord will certainly deal with them in His time.

A rebellious spirit is the only reason a woman won't dress holy! What they have inwardly shows on the outside. The same rebellious worldly spirit causes women to cut their hair so short they resemble men, and men to wear their hair so long they resemble women. But they are not rebelling against men; they are rebelling against God. The Word of God clearly says that it is a shame for a man to have long hair, and if a woman has long hair, it is her glory!

My Dad was a preacher. I still remember him rebuking my older sister one day. Dad was nearing the end of his life, he was bedridden and one of my sisters came to visit him. If I recall, my sister was about 50 or 55 years old at the time. She came into Dad's room wearing something that she had never worn in front of our Dad before . . . *a pair of shorts*. Daddy looked at her and asked, "Why are you wearing those shorts?" My sister answered, "Oh Daddy, it's so hot outside." Daddy replied, "Yes, and it's going to be hot in hell too!" Believe it or not, my older brother's that smoked would never have thought about smoking in front of our Daddy even when they were in their forties and fifties! For you young people today that couldn't possibly understand why they wouldn't, let me enlighten you . . . it's called honor and respect.

I believe if you have the true Holy Ghost, it will guide you into all truth, and you will have an indwelling desire to be different from the world! You will want to appear as one that professes holiness. I believe the Holy Spirit is teaching you just the opposite of what these smooth, compromising, worldly preachers are teaching today!

You know, I can hear some of you now . . . "I'm

saved by grace, how dare you tell me how I should dress . . . Judge not, least ye be judged . . . I'll dress the way I want to." Sure you will! That is just my point. You see the scriptures tell me that I am bought with a price and I am not my own. Jesus owns me, body, soul and spirit! He owns my heart, my life! I only want to serve Him and please Him! I don't want to dress or appear in any way that would displease our Lord. He said for us to "abstain from all appearances of evil." You just cannot continue to look like the world, act like the world, and obey this commandment. We are commanded to offer our bodies a living sacrifice to God.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God (Romans 12:1-2).

Not just your spirit. But your body also! Have you done this? The Word tells us that this is just our reasonable service. And that we should not be conformed to the world; *"to fashion ourselves, or be like the world"*. Let me ask you something

"When you go into town to shop, can the people see that you are different by the way you look and dress?" "Have you offered up your body to God?" "Do you look godly (as one professing holiness)? Or, do you look like everyone else?" You can say what you want; the fact remains that a plain old sinner can tell the difference between a saint and a sinner by the way they look! I guarantee you, when you see a woman walking down the street with long hair, a long dress, and no makeup, you will likely say, "There is a holiness woman!" But if that same woman dressed like everyone else, she could pass through

the stores without being recognized! How do you want to be recognized? As someone that appears no different than the world, or as a peculiar person that is obviously not ashamed of their Lord and wants the world to know that they are a Christian. I can assure you, the world is watching!

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's (1Corinthians 6:19-20).

There it is my friends, you are not your own! And look closely at the last verse: *"Therefore glorify God in your body."* And in your spirit. Now I ask you, "Is holiness just for the inward man, your spirit? Or, is it also for the outward man, your body?" The scriptures teach us that God lives in us, and we should obey the Spirit of Holiness that is in us, by not living unto ourselves, but unto God. We are not our own!

I believe the hour is upon us that men will not endure sound doctrine. I also believe the true sheep will rejoice in God's Word. You see they have an unction with the Father and they know all things. That unction which is the anointing is teaching them exactly what I am saying to you in this message. Children, we are saved by grace, but what does grace teach us? Does it teach us that we can sin and live just any old way? Am I teaching you sound doctrine or heresy? Let's see what God's Word says about sound doctrine and grace

But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober,

to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you. Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again; Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things (Titus 2:1-10).

Now you can twist these scriptures to mean something other than they clearly say if you wish, but I am going to let God be true and every man be a liar! I know that I am preaching sound doctrine. I know that I am not preaching my doctrine but His, and I know that the Grace of God that is within me is dictating this message

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee. (Titus 2:11-15).

By the authority of God's Word, I rebuke these compromising spineless modern day preachers! I rebuke those that use to preach New Testament Bible holiness and have now compromised with the world! I rebuke those of you that love the world more than you love God!

As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves

according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy (1Peter 1:14-16).

Is your conversation holy? Or, are you guilty of talking foolish and telling good old boy jokes? Are you a holy man of God? Are you a holy woman of God? Come on! God's not playing church! God says that we are His body in the earth. We represent Him! We are His ambassadors in this world. Can you imagine the President of the United States sending an ambassador to another country half dressed, looking like a prostitute? I represent Jesus, You represent Jesus! We represent Him everywhere! In the church, on the job, in the market place! Can't you see, the world is actually looking for Jesus, they need the church, but if the church cannot be seen where would one go for deliverance?

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. (1Peter 2:9)

We have been called out of darkness! Glory to God, we have been delivered from the world. We are a peculiar people, a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, thank God, we are part of a holy nation. We are different! We should not be ashamed of Holiness!

I want the world to see Jesus in me! I have been born again, I am a new creature in Christ, and I want the world to know it. Don't you?

Children of God, I fast, I pray, I study God's Word, I preach as hard as anyone I know. I do everything I can to protect you from the world and from the evil that is among the church. I instruct you in righteousness and godly living. I tell you to pray and fast and seek to know God for yourselves. I warn you with tears and with the anger of the

Lord at times. I do all this because I love you, and that you might find your way through the maze of false teaching and false spirits that are prevalent today. But alas, I am branded by some of you as old fashioned and a deceiver. Have I become your enemy because I tell you the truth?

May God have mercy on you and may He anoint your eyes to see and your ears to hear. Jesus is coming back for a church without a spot, a wrinkle, a blemish, or any such thing. Will you make your calling and election sure? Will you work out your own salvation with fear and trembling? Or will you take this message lightly and discard it?

True Holiness does indeed start from within! First you are born again. Once you are born again, you will see the importance of living godly in this present world because the grace that gave you the new birth will teach you Holiness. When I find God's Word admonishing us throughout the Old and New Testaments to live a holy, godly life in this present world, I must preach the truth.

There is truly a way called holiness . . . Jesus said it this way, *"Straight is the gate and narrow is the way that leads to life and few be that find it"* Look for it children of God . . . not in mans interpretation, but in God's Word revealed by the Spirit of Grace.

In closing this message, I know that many of you were "born" into churches that did not preach holiness as an outward dress standard. And I believe that you love the Lord and have a desire to serve Him and please Him. I also know that some of you on the other hand were "born" into churches that had a strict outward dress code, so much so that the "standard" became the message, instead of Christ being the message. Because of carnality among the ministry and among some of the believers, they brought much condemnation to the people; and many have been offended because of the standards of men. Many of you that read this message have known folks from both groups.

No matter where you began your journey in God, the Truth is our ultimate goal. Because you may have been turned off by some peoples preaching or condemning way, does not change God's commandments and standards for His people. There is no question that many in the past have been carnal and brutish in their declarations of what they believed was right. Many have been offended while these men spouted their own standards and commandments.

We must all lay aside our differences, and come together in the unity of the faith. God has called us all to Holiness both inwardly and outwardly, of this, there should be no doubt. Those of you that have never walked the holiness walk, you need to do so now! Those of you that have drifted from holiness must return now! The center of that narrow road that leads to eternal life is holiness. "Few be that find it and fewer that will live it." Let's get out of the ditches on either side of that highway and meet in the middle where God has ordained we should walk.

No I will not compromise! If the programming on television was evil twenty years ago, it is a thousand times more evil now! Many Christian parents that have televisions cannot control themselves in their viewing, let alone their children. Every Christian should ask the question, "Can we control our viewing, and our children? Do we really need a television?" And certainly computers and cell phones with internet capabilities should be a real concern to every parent! The internet is worse than television by far, if used improperly, and without supervision.

If the movie houses, fairs, carnivals and beach resorts were evil twenty years ago, don't tell me that they are O.K. now!

*Follow peace with all men, and holiness,
without which no man shall see the Lord.
(Hebrews 12:14)*

REMEMBER THE POOR

Only they would that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do. [Galatians 2:10]

He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

[Proverbs 19:17]

He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse.

[Proverbs 28:27]

Blessed *is* he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble. [Psalms 41:1]

He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honour.

[Psalms 112:9]

GOOD ADVICE ON PRAYER FROM A PRAYING MAN WHO GOT RESULTS WHEN HE PRAYED

George Muller, who in the mid-1830s, cared for over 2,000 orphans in England. All by faith in God. Muller was known as the man who got answers to his prayers. Before he died, he had listed in his journals over 50,000 answers to prayer.

When asked how he determined the will of God on any matter, Muller listed the following steps he believed were necessary:

- 1. “I get my heart into such a state that it has no will of its own in regard to any particular matter.”**
- 2. “I do not leave the result to feelings or simple impressions. That can make one open to great delusions.”**
- 3. “I seek God’s will through, or in connection with, his Word. If you look to the Spirit without the Word, you open yourself to delusion.”**
- 4. “I consider providential [God-controlled] circumstances.”**
- 5. “I ask God in prayer to reveal his will to me.”**
- 6. “I make sure I have a clear conscience before God and man.”**
- 7. “Every time I listened to men instead of God, I made serious mistakes.”**
- 8. “I act only when I am at peace, after much prayer, waiting on God with faith.”**

Those who walk by faith, seeking only God’s perfect will, are often sorely tested and tried. More and more in my own life, I am finding out how important diligent prayer and Bible reading are. Sadly, not many of God’s people pray diligently nowadays. Instead, there is much TV viewing and very little of waiting on God.

When I give myself to prayer, my faith rises. And when I feed on God’s Word, my confidence in his power to lead and help me increases. The Lord becomes my banker, my advisor, my attorney. May you find Him doing the same for you.