



Welcome to our Sunday Service (20/06/21)

## Pursuing Holiness

Prepared by Derek Burnside

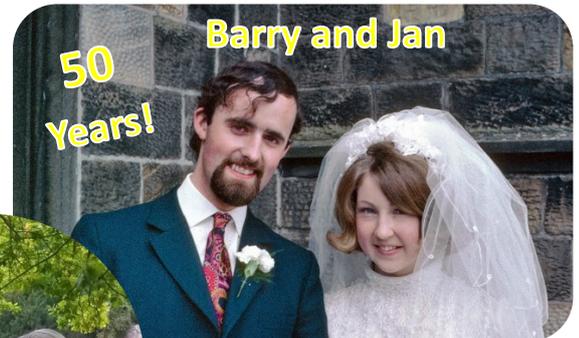
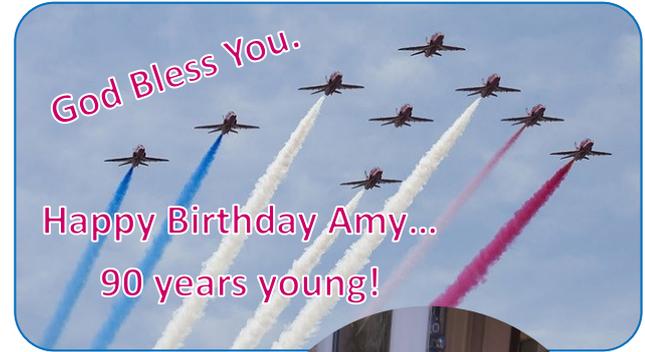
Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!  
Early in the morning  
our song shall rise to thee.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,  
casting down their golden crowns  
around the glassy sea;  
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,  
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,  
though the eye of sinfulness  
thy glory may not see,  
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,  
perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name,  
in earth, and sky, and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed trinity!

By Reginald Heber



Many Congratulations  
on your Golden Wedding  
and God Bless You Both!

**HAPPY FATHER'S DAY**  
To all the Chaps!

Our guest speaker  
today is  
Derek Burnside,  
Principal of  
Capernwray  
Bible School.



**Let's pray...** Father God thank you that you are our perfect holy father. We need your perfect love and grace again today. Forgive us, strengthen us, heal us and equip us that we may display, enjoy and live out the beauty of your holiness. Bless all those in our church family who are poorly or anxious at this time, help them to experience your comfort and peace. In Jesus name we pray. **Amen**

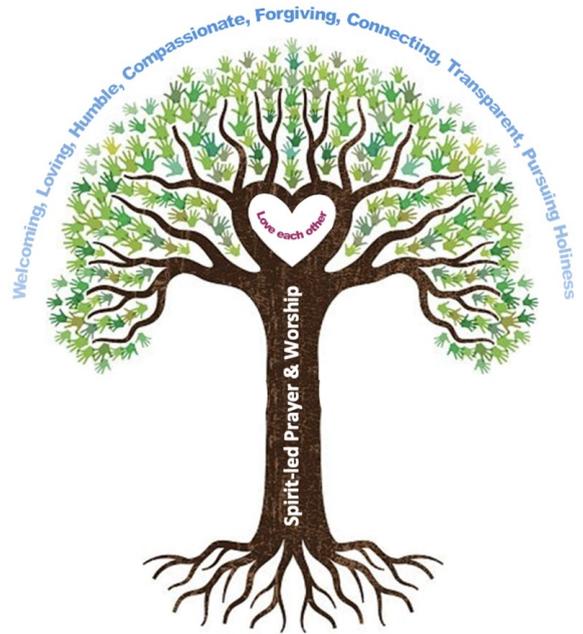
## Pursuing Holiness.

Today, we're thinking about pursuing holiness and this picture is a wonderful guide that you as a church are using in your life together. You will see that one of the values around the outside of the tree is pursuing holiness. I want to ask 3 questions.

1) What is holiness?

If we're going to pursue holiness, it's good for us to know what it is! For me, for many years "holiness" was one of those words which I knew I should be and I knew was important, but I didn't really know what it meant. It felt like a heavy word, a dark guilt-inducing word. Something that although I knew I should be, was nowhere near attaining.

Here's a quote from the great theologian, J I Packer who compares the word sex with holiness.



Rooted in the authority of the Bible,  
with Jesus central in all we do.

***For better or worse, sex has become, for most of us, an electric word. By that I mean it compels attention, jarring us awake; it grabs scanning eyes and casual ears; it carries an emotional charge, and makes an emotional impact on us. Why is this? Because sex is a theme of endless interest to normal adults. (You found yourself reading this paragraph with more than usual alertness, did you not? That 's just what I mean).***

***For healthy Christians, 'holiness' is a similarly electric word. Why? Because God has implanted a passion for holiness deep in every born-again heart. Holiness, which means being near God, like God, given to God and pleasing God, is something believers want more than anything else in this world.***

***One reason for their interest in the Holy Spirit is their awareness that making us holy is one of his main tasks. It is natural and normal for believers to want to understand and prove the Spirit's sanctifying power; any believer who was apathetic about seeking sanctity would be very much out of sorts.***

**Jim Packer**

“Any believer who is apathetic about seeking sanctity would be very much out of sorts”.  
Is this true of us ?

Here’s another quote from Nicky Gumbel.

***Our culture dislikes the idea of holiness, but when people see a holy life they are captivated by it. True ‘holiness’ is when you leave every person more alive than when you found them. Nicky Gumbel***

Isn’t that fantastic! Real holiness is captivating and it brings life.

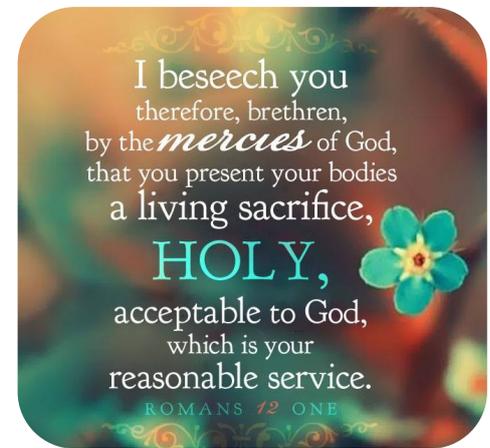
Here are some scriptures which help us to build a picture of what holiness is.

- ◆ There is no-one holy like the Lord; there is no-one besides you; there is no rock like our God. I Samuel 2:2
- ◆ Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false. Psalm 24: 3-4
- ◆ Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong. Why then do you tolerate wrong, why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves. Habakkuk 1:13.
- ◆ For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession. Deuteronomy 7:6
- ◆ But the Lord Almighty will be exalted by his justice, and the holy God will show himself holy by his righteousness. Isaiah 5:16
- ◆ “Do not come any closer,” God said, “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground”. Exodus 3:5
- ◆ On that day, holy to the Lord will be inscribed on the bells of the horses and the cooking pots in the Lord’s house will be like the sacred bowls in front of the alter. Every pot in Jerusalem and Judah will be holy to the Lord Almighty.  
Zechariah 14: 20-21



*Holy, holy, holy  
Lord God Almighty  
Who was and is and is to come!*

<b>1 Sam 2: 2</b>	<b>Holiness = God's character</b>
<b>Psalms 24: 3 – 4</b>	<b>Holiness = purity &amp; devotion</b>
<b>Habakkuk 1: 13</b>	<b>Holiness = a hatred of sin</b>
<b>Deuteronomy 7: 6</b>	<b>Holiness = being set apart</b>
<b>Isaiah 5: 16</b>	<b>Holiness = right living</b>
<b>Exodus 3: 5</b>	<b>Holiness = God's presence</b>
<b>Zechariah 14: 20 – 21</b>	<b>Anyone can be holy</b>



**So: A person pursuing holiness, filled with and keeping in step with the Holy Spirit will...**

- ♦ **Manifest God,**
- ♦ **be increasingly devoted to God,**
- ♦ **have a growing hatred of sin,**
- ♦ **have increasingly high spiritual and moral standards,**
- ♦ **be increasingly committed to God's service,**
- ♦ **Live with increasing standards of justice and rightness,**
- ♦ **daily enjoy the presence of God.**

**And this lifestyle is possible for anyone.**

This list sparks me into life. These words are electric words. This is the kind of human being I want to be.

**What makes an event or activity sacred is not calling it 'Christian' or inviting only Christians to it. Something is holy unto God when God's set-apart people do what they do for his glory: eating, drinking, playing, celebrating, working, resting, creating – you name it, God wants us to do all that we do for his glory.**

Jeff Vanderstelt, 'Saturate'

## **2) Do I need to pursue holiness?**

If I am already in the Lord Jesus, am I not already made holy, so why am I pursuing it? Often in scripture we see example of something that has happened in the past, is continuing to happen in the present, and it will be ultimately fulfilled in the future. For example: if we're Christians we have already been saved when Jesus died for the forgiveness of our sin, but the Bible also talks about us working out our salvation because there are elements of our lives that have not yet experienced God's salvation and are being worked on, so in that sense we are not yet fully saved. Salvation needs to be appropriated into those areas. One day in the future, that process will be completed and it's the same deal with holiness.

• I am already holy in Christ ('Positional sanctification')

We have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all ....  
Hebrews 10:10

But, I am also being made holy by the Spirit day by day ('Progressive sanctification')

For by one sacrifice he has made perfect for ever those who are being made holy,  
Hebrews 10: 14

And when I see Jesus I will be wholly holy ('Perfected sanctification')

The trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 1  
Corinthians 15:52

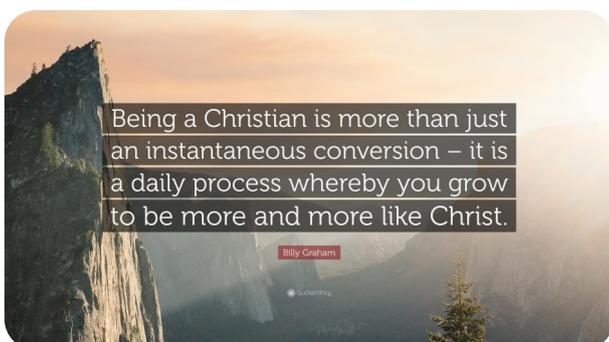
We are made holy in Christ, we are in the stage of progressive sanctification, being cleaned up and transformed which is the great adventure of being "In Christ".

### 3) How do we pursue holiness?

This transformation doesn't come from our own will or our own strength. It's going to come from the Lord Jesus as he works in our lives through The Holy Spirit. It's the fruit of The Spirit and fruit emerges naturally, although we have our part to play in it. If you a healthy functioning Christian, you will be growing in the likeness of Jesus. Becoming holier is going to be natural. This is everyday Christian living. The more time we spend with Jesus, the more we will imitate his loveliness.

**We pursue holiness by growing in the likeness of Jesus through the power of the Spirit.**

- Spend time each day with Jesus.
- Read and obey the Spirit's 'sword'.
- Spend time with others who are growing in the likeness of Jesus.
- Be humble, and responsive to correction.



Interestingly, we spend more time cleaning our houses now in the 21st century than we did in the 19th century, even though we have more time-saving cleaning gadgets, vacuum cleaners etc. How can that be? The reason is that there is more light in our houses than there was 200 years ago. We have electricity, bigger windows, thinner glass etc. The more light you have, the more dirt you see.



Do you sometimes feel that you are not making progress in becoming holier? Could it be that as the light of Jesus shines more brightly in us, the more we see that needs to be changed and cleaned up? Are our standards slowly becoming higher as we spend time with Jesus?

So:

- **He wants to make us holy**
- **The Holy Spirit shares in the holiness of God**
- **As he lives in us we get increasingly unhappy with unholy living.**

*Just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do. For it is written, 'Be holy, because I am holy*

*Without Christ holiness tends to have all the charm of an ingrown toenail. If holiness is not first and foremost about knowing Christ, it will be about self-produced morality and religiosity. Such incurved self-dependence is quite the opposite of what pleases God, or what is actually beautiful.*

*Nothing is more holy than a heartfelt delight in Christ. Nothing is more powerful to transform lives. 1 Peter 1: 15*

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore, Amen**