

Church of Christ

... Heart to Heart ...

It amazes me sometimes how little impacted brethren are with the death of Jesus. We speak so much about His dying our death and being raised for our right standing before God that faith gets lost and it becomes only spoken words. Does the death of Jesus in our place really affect us inwardly? What has God called us to be in His Son? HOLY! We are holy before God because we have been made holy. We have been called to be holy in our behavior (I Pet. 1:15-16). In other words, the death of Jesus should lead us to living lives that are holy to God, for God, helping others see God.

When a wife submits to the husband's headship, that is a call to holiness. Submission is tied to Christ's headship of the church (Eph. 5:22-24). The husband is called to holiness by loving his wife as that is linked to Christ's self-giving love for the church (Eph. 5:25-27). We are called to holiness by completely, whole-heartedly forgiving another "*just as God in Christ also has forgiven us.*" (Eph. 4:32) To be holy in our behavior is to be accepting of our brethren, no matter how weak they seem, "*just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.*" (Rom. 15:7) Servants are called to holiness by submitting to ungodly, unreasonable masters because of the suffering of Christ (I Pet. 2:21-25). A call to holiness is not being selfish, thinking how things affect you but having the mind of Christ, looking out for the interests of others (Phil. 2:3-4). Holiness is to stop walking, participating in sinful activities, not even being around them because they will corrupt you once again (Col. 3:5-11). Are we going to continue in sin so God's grace can be greater to us? Not if we are longing for holiness. We have **died** with Christ, been **buried** with Him, who destroyed sin (Rom. 6:1-7).

Our being called into the holiness of God is not by following some moral examples given (even if we find them in God's word), but holiness is always a calling toward the death of Jesus in our place! We have been redeemed (bought back) by the blood of the Lamb, and it's on that basis we are called to living a holy life.

To call on God as our Father means we recognize the great price paid for our ungodly, unholy lives (I Pet. 1:17-20), then we are to be holy, as He is holy. Holiness springs from being moved by what God has done for us through His Son. What about you? Are you striving to be holy in your life? Think about it!!!