

## **Remaining Thoughts on Principled Holiness**

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: Holiness Matters

**Text: Hebrews 12:14**

Holiness Principle # 9 – Jesus redeemed my mind to think godly thoughts that glorify Him.

Holiness must be won in the minds of the believer **before** it will be won in the natural. What is in us will always come out of us. This is why the Bible says that we are to guard our **heart** because all of the issues of life flow out of it. The heart and mind are connected. The inner man influences what we think and how we think. **Psalm 139:23-24, Luke 6:45, Psalm 19:14**

Everything hinges on what we **think**. What we think determines what we believe and that influences how we live and speak. Without holy thinking we will have **futile** and foolish living that is not pleasing to God. **Romans 1:21-23, Ephesians 2:1-3**

In our culture we separate the heart and the mind. We consider the heart the seat of our **emotions** and we consider the mind the seat of our **intellect**. We identify sensitive and caring people as all heart, and we consider those who reason and think things through as reasonable and sensible. We like to separate our reason and will from our emotions.

The Bible combines the heart and mind. It refers to the intellect, will and emotions. In the Hebrew way of thinking all of this was involved in our decision making and living. Our emotions affect our **attitude** and our outlook. This is why God understands that if He can change our heart, then we have the ability to change our mind. **Proverbs 16:9**

Holy living begins with holy **thinking**. Holiness involves **renewed** thinking and a transformed mind. You cannot live a holy life while thinking like the old you and world. **Romans 12:2, Philippians 4:8-9, Ephesians 4:20-24, Ephesians 4:23 (NIV, AMP, NLT)**

As we allow the Spirit of God to renew our mind we must choose to **put on** our new self. The Spirit will renew but we must choose to change. Our **want to** or our will must be involved in the “new you”. While God renews our mind, we must choose what we think about, and how we think about things. Our **changed** mind changes everything. As we think God thoughts and move into God’s way of thinking it turns into feeling and acting the way He does.

Holiness principle # 10 – My body houses the Holy Spirit’s presence and what I do in His house matters to Him. **1 Corinthians 3:16-19 (AMP), 2 Corinthians 6:14-18**

You hear many people say that their body is a temple. What the world does is equate that with health and exercise. Our bodies are the Temple of the Holy Spirit.

A Temple is a place of worship. It is to be treated with respect, purity, dignity and godliness. It is specifically set apart as a place for God. We (our bodies) are now a sacred vessel that carries the very presence of God. What we do with our body matters.

The Greek word 'naos' is the word for a temple or a highly decorated shrine. Because the Corinthians were Greek and had grown up in a classical Greek culture, they had seen temples their entire lives. When Paul used this word, 'naos', it would have been natural for images like the ones above to flash through their minds. They knew that the word naos always depicted a highly decorated shrine. The temples of their times were beautiful buildings with tall, vaulted ceilings, marble columns, granite floors, hand-carved woodwork overlaid with gold and silver, and burning incense billowing into the air around the front of the altar.

Shrines are imposing and impressive, however, they're not comfortable. But when the Holy Spirit came into your heart, He made a home that was so comfortable, He was actually happy to come live inside you! He moved in, settled down, and permanently took up residency in your heart — His new home! When you got saved, the ultimate miracle was performed inside your heart. The Holy Spirit took your spirit, which had been dead in trespasses and sin, and raised it to new life. His work inside you was so glorious that when it was all finished, He declared you to be His own workmanship. At that moment, your spirit became a marvelous temple of God! In that miraculous moment, He created us to be like God in righteousness and true holiness.

Temples are to be pure, set apart for God alone. Anytime we allow anything impure we defile the temple.

We defile ourselves in several ways:

- False doctrine and wrong believing.
- Worldly wisdom and ways of thinking. **James 3:14-18**
- When we try to have equal relationships with unbelievers in regard to friendships, business alliances and romantic involvement. We are not to be unequally yoked in any way.
- When we have any sexual activity that is outside of the sacredness of marriage between two believers. **1 Corinthians 6:15-18**
- Any addiction or vice that destroys our physical bodies dishonors the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and defiles what is meant to be His.
- We defile the temple by allowing things to flow out of our lives that are not of God. **Mark 7:15**

All of this is to say that what goes on inside and what we do outside matters to God.

Holiness principle # 11 – God conquered sin and forgave me so that I can have an exclusive relationship with Him.

Sin severed our relationship with God. The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and our acceptance of His work by faith restores that precious union. A life of holiness means that God has first place in our life above everything. The first commandment is still in effect today.

**Exodus 20:3, Deuteronomy 6:5, Mark 12:30**

Anything that takes first place in our life other than God becomes an idol. Our spouse, children, job, education, anything that we live for, rely on, rearrange our life for more than God is an idol.

A life of holiness means that God has first place in every area of our lives.

Holiness principle # 12 – I need Christian community for encouragement, correction, building up, worship, fellowship, teaching, accountability, and support.

While we are individually a temple of the Holy Spirit, together we make up the body of Christ. We are better together. We compliment one another, we challenge one another. We depend on what each one offers and is gifted in. We help each other through difficulties, trials and changes. We learn from each other. We build each other up and keep each other sharp.

**Proverbs 27:17, Acts 2:42-47, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27**

A life of holiness cannot be lived effectively apart from other believers. We are better together. **Hebrews 10:24-25**

As we see the coming of the Lord drawing closer, we are expressly taught that wickedness and spiritual darkness will abound. This is why it is all the more vital that we do life with other believers in order that we can exhort and encourage one another. The more intense the darkness the more important that we combine our light.

A life of holiness is not only commanded by God, but He has made it possible.

Holiness has always mattered but it matters even more in our day and age.