

Review

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, (10) or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. (11) Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Last week, I talked about walking with God in a nation of compromise.

I gave a list of 21 areas where America is currently compromising in a fairly big way.

And, the church is doing very little to counter these compromises.

Because of Adam and Eve's sin, we are sinners in need of a savior. We are unholy, and God is holy. We need His help.

Jeremiah 17:9 (NLT)

"The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?

Matthew 15:19 (NLT)

For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, all sexual immorality, theft, lying, and slander.

He gives us His word to open our conscience to Him so He can change us!

Last week, 4 points:

1. We live in a loose and immoral atmosphere. Compromise is everywhere.
2. Three words that compromise may breed in our lives
3. 10 Symptoms of complacency
4. Today we are experiencing what Lot experienced in Sodom and Gomorrah! Except, it's worse.

1. Question: What is God like to you?

Most people in America who believe in God, believe He is a loving, kind, benevolent, and really nice grandfather-like figure.

And the majority of people in America see Him as a God of love, and the idea is, since He loves me, regardless of what I do, He understands me, and will allow me to go to heaven when I die.

2. Psalm 50 describes well the new American filter we put on God.

Psalms 50:16-21 (NLT)

But God says to the wicked: Why bother reciting my decrees and pretending to obey my covenant? (17) For you refuse my discipline and treat my words like trash. (18) When you see thieves, you approve of them, and you spend your time with adulterers. (19) Your mouth is filled with wickedness, and your tongue is full of lies. (20) You sit around and slander your brother— your own mother’s son. (21) While you did all this, I remained silent, and you thought I didn’t care.

verse 21 (NKJV)

These things you have done, and I kept silent; You thought that I was altogether like you...

We have devised a God from our own thinking. We have assigned our values as His values. We have made a God like us.

And He is NOTHING like us!

J.C. Ryle Quote:

https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/139694.J_C_Ryle

Beware of manufacturing a God of your own: a God who is all mercy, but not just; a God who is all love, but not holy; a God who has a heaven for every body, but a hell for none; a God who can allow good and bad to be side by side in time, but will make no distinction between good and bad in eternity. Such a God is an idol of your own, as truly an idol as any snake or crocodile in an Egyptian temple. The hands of your own fancy and sentimentality have made him. He is not the God of the Bible, and beside the God of the Bible there is no God at all.

— J.C. Ryle

SO, in the name of God loving us, we go merrily on our way in life doing what we want just knowing that God will wink at our wrong behavior, our *weakness*, and because He loves us, let us into heaven.

And this, my friends is a dangerous way to think.

Michael Brown - The Fire That Never Sleeps

Brown, Michael L.. The Fire that Never Sleeps (p. 69). Destiny Image, Inc.. Kindle Edition.

We create a god in our image who not only loves us unconditionally, but unconditionally accepts all of our practices, values, and sinful expressions. I've never seen moral defection on this level.

3. Notice what Jesus said about how we think and live.

Matthew 7:21-23 (NLT)

Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. (22) On judgment day many will say to me, "Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name." (23) But I will reply, "I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws."

Question: Why would Jesus say such a thing?

Could it be because God is what we term **holy**, and that nothing unholy can get near Him?

1 John 3:9-10 - (NLT)

Those who have been born into God's family do not make a practice of sinning, because God's life is in them. So they can't keep on sinning, because they are children of God. (10) So now we can tell who are children of God and who are children of the devil. Anyone who does not live righteously and does not love other believers does not belong to God.

4. Contrary to the contrived, permissive "American culture God," the God of the Bible is holy.

The Bible word for God's character is the word **holy**.

What I hear all the time is that *God loves us*, and that *He has grace for us*. And in His love He overlooks our shortcomings and character deficiencies.

What we DO NOT hear is that *God is holy*.

And it is the *holiness* of God that sent Jesus to the cross.

If we do not understand God's holiness, then we will never understand the need for salvation and forgiveness of sin!

Because God is holy, sin MUST be judged. It is either judged by sacrifice (what Jesus did for you), or, it must be judged in you.

For God who is holy to come near to us, we must be cleansed. And the only antidote for sin is Jesus' blood.

Quote

If Christianity is to ever be returned to a place of power in America – then the truth of God's Holiness must once again be lifted up to its rightful place.

Holy - Definition:

Separateness, brightness, freshness; separation from the secular, to cut off, to withdraw, to set apart

5. Notice the references to God being holy:

Leviticus 11:44 (NLT)

For I am the Lord your God. You must consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy.

Leviticus 20:7-8 (NLT)

So set yourselves apart to be holy, for I am the Lord your God. (8) Keep all my decrees by putting them into practice, for I am the Lord who makes you holy.

Leviticus 20:26 (KJV)

And ye shall be holy unto me: for I the Lord am holy, and have severed you from other people, that ye should be mine.

1 Peter 1:14-16 (NLT)

So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then. (15) But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. (16) For the Scriptures say, "You must be holy because I am holy."

1 Peter 2:9 (NLT)

But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

Hebrews 12:14 (NLT)

Work at living in peace with everyone, and work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord.

Matthew 5:8 (NLT)

God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God.

Psalms 15 (NLT)

Who may worship in your sanctuary, Lord? Who may enter your presence on your holy hill? (2) Those who lead blameless lives and do what is right, speaking the truth from sincere hearts. (3) Those who refuse to gossip or harm their neighbors or speak evil of their friends. (4) Those who despise flagrant sinners, and honor the faithful followers of the Lord, and keep their promises even when it hurts. (5) Those who lend money without charging interest, and who cannot be bribed to lie about the innocent. Such people will stand firm forever.

Psalms 24:3-4 (NLT)

Who may climb the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place?

(4) Only those whose hands and hearts are pure,

Psalms 51:10-11 (NLT)

Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me.

(11) Do not banish me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me.

Isaiah 6:1-5 (NLT)

It was in the year King Uzziah died that I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple. (2) Attending him were mighty seraphim, each having six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. (3) They were calling out to each other, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Heaven's Armies! The whole earth is filled with his glory!" (4) Their voices shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire building was filled with smoke. (5) Then I said, "It's all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I live among a people with filthy lips. Yet I have seen the King, the Lord of Heaven's Armies."

Hebrews 12:29 (NLT)

For our God is a devouring fire.

6. Because God is holy, He is calling us to physical, mental, and spiritual purity.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 (NLT)

Don't team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness? (15) What harmony can there be between Christ and the devil? How can a believer be a partner with an unbeliever? (16) And what union can there be between God's temple and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God said: "I will live in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they will be my people. (17) Therefore, come out from among unbelievers, and separate yourselves from them," says the Lord. "Don't touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you. (18) And I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

2 Corinthians 7:1 (NLT)

Because we have these promises, dear friends, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. And let us work toward complete holiness because we fear God.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 (JB Phillips)

God's plan is to make you holy, and that means a clean cut with sexual immorality. Every one of you should learn to control his body, keeping it pure and treating it with respect, and never allowing it to fall victim to lust, as do pagans with no knowledge of God. You cannot break this rule without cheating and exploiting your fellow men. Indeed God will punish all who do offend in this matter, as we have plainly told you and warned you. The calling of God is not to impurity but to the most thorough purity, and anyone who makes light of the matter is not making light of man's ruling but of God's command. It is not for nothing that the Spirit God gives us is called the Holy Spirit.

1 Peter 4:1-5 (NLT)

So then, since Christ suffered physical pain, you must arm yourselves with the same attitude he had, and be ready to suffer, too. For if you have suffered physically for Christ, you have finished with sin. (2) You won't spend the rest of your lives chasing your own desires, but you will be anxious to do the will of God. (3) You have had enough in the past of the evil things that godless people enjoy—their immorality and lust, their feasting and drunkenness and wild parties, and their terrible worship of idols. (4) Of course, your former friends are surprised when you no longer plunge into the flood of wild and destructive things they do. So they slander you. (5) But remember that they will have to face God, who stands ready to judge everyone, both the living and the dead.

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 (NLT)

Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. (19) Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, (20) for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.

Ephesians 4:17-24 (NLT)

With the Lord's authority I say this: Live no longer as the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly confused. (18) Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him. (19) They have no sense of shame. They live for lustful pleasure and eagerly practice every kind of impurity. (20) But that isn't what you learned about Christ. (21) Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, (22) throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. (23) Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. (24) Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.

Ephesians 5:1-14 (NLT)

Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. (2) Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God. (3) Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God's people. (4) Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes—these are not for you. Instead, let there be thankfulness to God. (5) You can be sure that no immoral, impure, or greedy person will inherit the Kingdom of Christ and of God. For a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. (6) Don't be fooled by those who try to excuse these sins, for the anger of God will fall on all who disobey him. (7) Don't participate in the things these people do. (8) For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! (9) For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true. (10) Carefully determine what pleases the Lord. (11) Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them. (12) It is shameful even to talk about the things that ungodly people do in secret. (13) But their evil intentions will be exposed when the light shines on them, (14) for the light makes everything visible. This is why it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, rise up from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

Ephesians 5:15-19 (NLT)

So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. (16) Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. (17) Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. (18) Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, (19) singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts.

Action Points:

1. Ask God to create in you a hunger to be holy.
2. Fast - For a few days social media and other distractions.

3. Feast - Read the Word.
4. Pray - Ask God to challenge anything in you that is unlike Him.