

Scripture in both the Old and New Testaments repeatedly remind us that God is not only concerned with the purity of His message but He is concerned with the purity of His messengers. The God who is holy, who sent his holy Son to earth to redeem an unholy people in order that they would be made holy, is the same God who intends that those redeemed people become living proof that the Gospel is true.

Simply put, when truly embraced the Gospel produces holiness. This essential characteristic of the Gospel is often lost in language of modern evangelism. Words such as success, prosperity, health, happiness are often associated with proclamations of the Gospel, but it is rare to hear the word holiness.

Holiness is the result of true conversion. Without transformation, there is no conversion.

Marks of a Transformed Life (see Kevin DeYoung (2012) *The Hole in Our Holiness: Filling the Gaps between Gospel Passion and the Pursuit of Godliness*. Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway)

1. *Holiness looks like a renewal of the image of God.*
 - a. Transformation of the mind – its supernatural orientation; increasingly and consciously God-centered.
 - b. Transformation of affections – dreams, aspirations are less and less this-world-only in their focus.
 - c. Transformation of relationships – what attracts us to people and forms the basis of our interpersonal, primary relationships is more our common bond in Christ.
2. *Holiness looks like a personal life characterized more by virtue than vice.*
 - a. Do a study on the phrase “will of God” and review the biblical texts where God communicates his will to us. You will discover that most of those texts speak to the kind of people we have been redeemed to be.
 - b. God cares as much about the character of the messenger as he does the accuracy of the message. We are the message!
 - c. Romans 12:9-21; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Galatians 5:22-23; Colossians 3:12-15; 2 Peter 1:5-7 – key biblical texts on Christian virtues

3. *Holiness looks like a clean conscience.*
 - a. One of the great blessings of justification is the cleansing of the believer's conscience (Acts 23:1; 24:16; Romans 8:1)
 - b. Sanctification is the process of preventing us from having a seared conscience (1 Timothy 4:2), a weak conscience (1 Corinthians 8:7-12), a defiled conscience (Titus 1:15) – and this process is not passive; it requires effort.
4. *Holiness looks like obedience to Christ's commands.*
 - a. An integral element of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19, 20) is making disciples, whom the discipler teaches “. . . to obey all that I have commanded you”
 - b. “By this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments” (1 John 2:3)
5. *Holiness looks like Christlikeness.*
 - a. Since the Gospel is about Christ and the transformed life is about restoring that which is lost in the Fall, it seems logical that restoring the image of God means the transformation of the believer into the likeness of Christ.
 - b. DeYoung states, “We see in Jesus the best, most practical, most human example of what it means to be holy. He is our model for love, humility, facing temptation, steadfastness in the face of suffering and our model for obedience to the Father.” (p.47)