

HOLINESS AND HOW WE GET IT

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Holiness -- what is it? How do humans achieve, gain or get holiness? Is there anything we can humanly do to be holy?

We know that God--Father, Son, and Holy Spirit--are holy. They exist eternally in a holy, loving relationship. But what makes them holy? Do they have some heavenly set of laws to obey that when and if followed produces holiness in them? The answer is that the holiness the Triune God experiences is the loving, face-to-face relationship the three have with each other. There is mutual love, respect, honor, agreement and joy which is shared with each other face-to-face. It is not "based" on anything since this relationship has always existed, and there was nothing before God to base it on!

But, what about us? Are there laws we can obey, ways we can dress, actions we can effect, thoughts we can have, or anything else we can do which will produce holiness in us? The answer to this question is NO. Paul expresses this in Romans 3:10, "...as it is written, there is NONE righteous." Nothing anyone can DO produces righteousness; otherwise, it would have been produced by someone at some point in time.

Note here that the words holiness and righteousness can be used interchangeably since they have essentially the same meaning. Our holiness does not--and CAN NOT--have ANYTHING to do with ANYTHING we can DO or NOT DO. There are no works we can do to help our righteousness along. In fact Isaiah 64:6 tells us that "all our righteousness is as filthy rags" to God.

Matthew 19:17 tells us, "there is none good (righteous) but ONE." This should tell us that our obedience, our morality, our law keeping, our 'goodness', our dress, our hair styles, our cosmetics or lack of cosmetics, do NOT make us Holy!

The mystery of our holiness is simply, "Christ IN us, the hope of glory." (Colossians 1:27). Christ is our life. (Colossians 3:4). God has GIVEN us a righteousness (holiness) apart from the dictates of any law through faith. (Romans 3:21)

Jesus Christ who is the only one who is good, righteous, and holy declares His holiness to us. He imparts His Holiness to us. It is an act of God's love.

What makes us holy in this declaration of Christ is that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit live in us, and we in them. (John 17:20-26) We are now face to face with God in this eternal relationship with the Triune God. As God is holy in His relationship—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—we are INCLUDED in this same relationship, and this is what makes us HOLY.

But you say what about the sins we all have and still commit? Doesn't that nullify any holiness we now have? Paul says it this way in Romans 5:20, "where sin increased

grace increased all the more.” Jesus took care of the sin problem ONCE and for ALL; for ALL people and ALL sin. We stay clean (holy) through the word Jesus spoke to us. (John 15:3)

Let’s be clear. Our life, our righteousness, our goodness, our holiness, our EVERY-THING which is Godly is a gift of Christ’s life bequeathed to us. Christ IS our LIFE! James says it this way in James 1:17, “EVERY good gift comes down from the Father in heaven.”

The gifts of **salvation, redemption, adoption, reconciliation,** and **holiness** all come from our Father given to us IN Jesus. This is GOOD NEWS. But it is only going to get better as eternity unfolds.