

God loves us too well to grant every request of our selfish hearts. —H.A. Ironside

We enjoy our heavenly Father's constant attention to our prayers, for he's never sleepy or forgetful, never grumpy or uninterested, never powerless to help or unsure of what to do.

—Richard Coekin

The Baptist Catechism (Keach's Catechism)

1677

(Presented here as originally published – this does not constitute a full endorsement of the Riverside Baptist Church)

Q. 73. Which is the sixth commandment?

A. The sixth commandment is, "Thou shalt not kill."

(Exodus 20:13)

Q. 74. What is required in the sixth commandment?

A. The sixth commandment requires all lawful endeavors to preserve our own life and the life of others.

(Eph. 5:29-30; Ps. 82:3-4; Prov. 24:11-12; Act 16:28)

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Sunday Morning Bible Study -- 10:00 AM

Sunday Morning Worship -- 11:00 AM

Prayer and Bible Study Wednesday Evening 6:30 PM

WCWV 92.9 FM – 8:00 AM Sunday Morning

THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST REPORT

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“The Pillar and ground of the Truth” -- 1 Timothy 3:15

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BE YE HOLY

But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. (1 Peter 1:15-16)

Believers are given to meditate on the various and wonderful attributes of God. The one that is most often referenced is His Holiness. Sadly, like many other things relating to the revelation of God and of His Son Christ Jesus our Lord, it has been cheapened in the minds of many. We often hear the word holy used in such expressions as “Holy cow,” “Holy Moses,” and others we would not mention in that some uses attach it to crude language. Thus, it is not surprising that many use the Name of God in vain as they invoke it in swearing and they do not spare the same manner of reference to Christ as well. The god of this world is hard at work cheapening in the minds of unregenerate men all reference to that which is holy. He, Satan, would like to see it lightly considered in the minds of Christians as well.

When Jesus was led of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of Satan He resorted to only one thing – “It is written...” There, as the representative of His people, He successfully resisted the onslaught of the archenemy of the Lord’s people. From there on Satan threw all that he had into trying to stop Jesus from accomplishing the purpose for which He was sent. The warfare continues as many walk “according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air...” The instruction here is to walk in a way of obedience rather than the “former lusts (v. 14).” It is with a

view to the hope that lies before (v. 13) and undergirded by the assurance of a blood-bought redemption (v. 18) that they and we are directed to the pursuit of holiness as a way of life.

At any mention of personal holiness in the life of believers the disclaimer is often heard that nobody is perfect. Of course, we understand that perfection will not be reached in this life by any. Only Christ Jesus our Lord led a pure and perfect life before men and His Heavenly Father. All too often we sense that this disclaimer is offered as an excuse for sin. There is no acceptable excuse for sin. Vance Havner once commented that the early Christians had a standard, and it was not imperfection.

We find expressions of longing for the presence of God throughout the Word of God, especially in the Psalms. That desire is often expressed by those who are conscious of their own sinful condition. It is evident that their desire to be in the presence of God would necessitate a desire for likeness with Him. None would dare approach our Holy God while defending a sinful way of life. Ours is characterized as a Holy calling. We are exhorted to “draw nigh to God” with the expectation that He will draw nigh to us. The context in this exhortation of James was the friendship of the world with those to whom he wrote. Further, it is directed that they “Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double

minded.” Paul declared that we have been “delivered from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father. (Galatians 1:4)” Again, the thought is separation from the influences of the evil of this world.

So, the exhortation here is to be holy in all manner of conversation (conduct or behavior). Wuest observes here that this is not the verb of being; it is rather that of becoming. He would further observe that “Those who at one time were wholly controlled by their evil cravings, had through salvation entered into a new state of being, that of inward holiness, by virtue of the residence in them of the Holy Spirit, and now they were to see to it that inward holiness found outward expression in their lives. The word “holy” in the Greek means literally, ‘set apart.’ Thus, a holy person is one set apart from sin to righteousness.” Gill commented on this exhortation as that “which respects not internal holiness, but supposes it; for that is God’s work, and not the creatures work; it is the sanctification of the Spirit, of which He is the author; this they were chosen unto from the beginning and made partakers of in regeneration.”

The pattern to which we are to look is God Himself. Men tend to deal with such things in relative terms and so would define degrees of holiness or separation. When attempting to define the holiness of God we encounter that which is absolute and not to be considered apart from who He is. His is a perfect purity and is not subject to being diminished in any way. Peter does not hesitate to direct our attention to this fact while leaving no excuse for anything less than that which is true about God. Despite the fact that we wait for the perfection of outward holiness, we must not aim for anything

less. We have the perfect pattern preserved for us in the life of Christ on earth: *For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: (1 Peter 2:21-22).*

Peter stressed the necessity of the pursuit of holiness in the life of believers and points to the fact that the One who has called is Holy and it is He to whom we are brought in salvation. Knowing that many of those to whom he wrote were converted Jews, he appealed to their knowledge of the scriptures. Jesus Himself made such appeals often during His ministry among us. We previously noted that He answered the advances of Satan from the Word of God. Peter would here do the same thing. Having made the statement of v. 15, he appealed to the Old Testament Scripture. *For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. For I am the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy. (Leviticus 11:44-45).*

Simon Kistemaker wrote: “For the believer, holiness does not end with forgiveness and cleansing of sin, but begins with an active life of opposing sin. The believer must strive to live obediently before God and thus demonstrate the meaning of the word *holy*.” In that it is written it is the expressed will of God for us. *But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. (Jude 1:20-21). bhs*

Perseverance reveals the fruit of true, saving faith. It is both an exercise of genuine faith and evidence of it. Perseverance doesn’t save us, but it reveals that we have been saved. —Glenna Marshall

Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law. —Psalm 94:12

That there is a present partial understanding of God's will and ways concerning us we readily concede. We may, now and then, see an explanation for His conduct. The veil is just sufficiently lifted to reveal a portion of the "end of the Lord." He will make us acquainted with the evil which He corrects, with the backsliding which He chastens, with the temptation which He checks, and with the dangerous path around which He throws His hedge, so that we cannot escape. We see it, and we bless the hand outstretched to save. He will also cause us to be fruitful. We have mourned our leanness, confessed our barrenness, lamented the distance of our walk and the little glory we bring to His dear name, and, lo, the dresser of the vineyard has appeared to prune His sickly branch "that it may bring forth more fruit." "By this therefore shall the iniquity of Jacob be purged; and this is all the fruit to take away his sin" (Isa. 27:9). The deeper teaching and the result of the divine chastening has revealed to some extent the "end of the Lord" in His mysterious conduct. Oh, there is no school like God's school, for who teaches like Him? God's highest school is the school of trial. All His true scholars have graduated from this. "What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?...These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Rev. 7:13-14). Ask each spiritually, deeply taught Christian where he attained his knowledge, and he will point you to God's great university—the school of trial.

-- Octavius Winslow, *Morning Thoughts*

After the spies' report and Israel's refusal to enter the Promised Land, God threatened their total annihilation. In the face of divine judgment, Moses interceded with the following argument: Now if You kill these people as one man, then the nations which have heard of Your fame will speak, saying, "Because the Lord was not able to bring this people to the land which He swore to give them, therefore He killed them in the wilderness." And now, I pray, let the power of my Lord be great.... Pardon the iniquity of this people, I pray, according to the greatness of Your mercy (Num. 14:15-19). Moses' argument grows out of his passion for the glory of God, and his logic is superb: If God utterly rejected His people and failed to bring them into the Promised Land, the nations would attribute the failure to God's inability. In the same way, God will not abandon His work of salvation in the individual believer, but He who began the good work will carry it on to completion until that final day.¹² God's perseverance and unfailing commitment to His people's salvation has His glory as its end.

--Paul Washer, *The Gospel Call and True Conversion*

But God's kingdom, and not my nation, is where we belong and where we will be at home, and if we confuse the two, we open ourselves up to confused loyalties and a compromised faith. —Alistair Begg