

YOUR LIFE IN THE **RED ZONE**

HOLINESS

REPLAY

You do the same thing everyday to be a better player. You run laps, you practice tackles and catches. You throw the ball, you kick the ball. In the locker room, Coach hung up a poster of The Legend, the best player the league ever saw or ever will see. Together and individually, you and the team have watched videos of his best plays on the field. Someday, you hope to be just like him.

GAME BOOK

God has called us to be just His Son, to change from our current state into the image of Jesus Christ. The Bible calls this change holiness or sanctification. It is presented as the goal for all Christians, and we are commanded to strive for it. "But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy" (1 Peter 1:15-16).

To attain holiness, we must first know what it means. Throughout the Bible, holiness is presented as being distinct from other things. Places may be holy (Exodus 3:5) or people (Jeremiah 2:3). These people and places are no different chemically from those around them. What makes them different is God's purpose and plan for them. Places are set apart for God's work. People are dedicated to His service.

This separateness comes in two parts as shown by 2 Timothy 2:22 shows both sides of holiness: "Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace...." First, we are set apart from the rest of the world. Second, we are dedicated to God. Without both aspects, we will not attain holiness.

You may be asking how we become holy. Simply put, we must do what God says. You do not need to pray about this to find if it is God's will for your life. It is. He has already said so in Scripture.

The first step to attaining holiness is to see our struggle over sin as a walk in obedience and not a walk in victory. If we pursue sinlessness as a personal victory, we have the wrong attitude (not a holy attitude). However, if we view the pursuit as obedience to God and humbly walk in Him, we have the right attitude and the first part of holiness. At the same time, we cannot blame others for our sins. We must take responsibility for our own actions.

God has provided a very special portrait of holiness in the Bible. We are called to follow Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1). Jesus is the savior of our souls and the

example for our lives. Being sinless, He lived a life of perfect holiness. Therefore, when faced with a decision to make, you know that if you can figure out what Jesus would have done, that is what you should also do. Some people refer to this as "What would Jesus do?" The concept and question are both sound.

TAKE-AWAY

Wherever you go, people see an imitation of Christ. Their idea of Christians is based, rightly or wrongly, on what they see you do. Our goal is to give them the best imitation we can. The question "what would Jesus do?" is appropriate to ask when making decisions.

Remember that holiness is a process Christians grow in. You won't wake up one morning and be an imitation of Christ (don't we all wish that), but you can get there slowly. It'll take time and work, but all the best things in life do.