

**Revivals And Church History :: Outward Holiness!****Outward Holiness! - posted by holiness1214 (), on: 2008/9/20 20:16**

Is there a set standard that we as Christians are to live by in our every day life, that dictates what we can and cannot wear, where we can and cannot go, what we should and should not listen to? Are we to worry about the inside only or is the outside equally important?

**Re: Outward Holiness! - posted by HeartSong, on: 2008/9/20 20:34**

Christ sets the standard. For only He knows what it is that He would have us to be. As each of us are different, and are being used in different ways, only He can determine what is appropriate for each of our individual circumstances. If we listen to others, rather than Him, we will be led astray.

**Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2008/9/20 20:36**

Quote:  
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It is false to have a outward holiness and no inward reality. The Scriptures speak of things that we should and should not do but never as rules and regulations. We must have the inner man sanctified not the outward dress or clothes only. I believe this is a wisdom here that we should not focus on these things but also allow the Spirit of God to lead for us on how to even dress. I came from a hip-hop background with very baggy pants and God has given me wisdom what now to wear.

**Re: Outward Holiness! - posted by KathleenP (), on: 2008/9/20 20:57**

As I have grown and continue to grow in the Lord, I realize that what began on the inside has found its way out. The more we draw nigh to God, the less we desire to resemble the world. I found myself beginning to resent following fads and trying to look "fashionable" for the fashion of this world passes away.

Like Sermonindex, I came from a clothing background that many found offensive, in fact one of my natural sisters refused to speak to me for 2 years because my apparel was so revealing. Sadly, this was in my backslidden state but I can tell you I was greatly ashamed that I'd sunk that low.

I desire so much to please God and He faithfully gives us the guidelines through His Word and prayer. Modesty is the key for all. Also, I take it seriously that I represent a King. I could not bear the thought that I caused someone to stumble by my clothing choices. I believe with all my heart that the more we desire to please the Lord, the more we put others before ourselves. This said, I am just a pretty much average looking woman that could easily disappear in a crowd. I have lost the desire of trying to make a statement about myself and that's quite a change for an artist!

Just by dressing without people knowing what catalogues we browse through, we can sense also at how ordinary and u

nimpressive Jesus was at take that as an example.

I hope this is somewhat helpful. When I came to Jesus, all things really did become new albeit some changes took more time than others.

God Bless.

**Re: - posted by holiness1214 (), on: 2008/9/20 22:20**

My point is this, just as "it is false to have a outward holiness and no inward reality" it is also false to say that there is an inward reality but no outward holiness, or witness. There can be no true inward work (change) without it effecting an outward difference. We are to be lights to the world(Matt.5:16) and while it is true that God looks on the heart, it is also true that man cannot see your heart but he can see how you live and conduct yourself.

One of the reasons that preachers were given to the church was for the perfecting of the saints(Eph.4:12) and also to teach the difference between the holy and the profane (Ezk.22:26;44:23). Yes we follow the leading of the Holy Ghost and not be governed simply by the dictates of man. There are numerous places in the BIBLE where it gives explicit instructions on what we should and should not wear, the places we shouldn't go to, and ways we should not entertain ourselves.

The same standard of practical holiness is the same for everyone the BIBLE points this out in that it states that God is no respecter of persons (1 Peter 1:17).

**Re: - posted by KathleenP (), on: 2008/9/21 7:32**

I know what you're saying holiness1214. I have witnessed those that have all the appearance of godliness but are very cold and almost condescending in manner to others that don't match their standards. Also there are many that are way to the other extreme and tell you not to judge and that God sees their hearts.

God has sent His ministers but many do not provide the clear guidelines by which the sheep can be instructed. Perhaps many are fearful of telling them the truth? I also noted in the modest swimwear discussion that I was shocked by some of the church scenarios mentioned.

I know that I will be held accountable as a woman of God by what manner I present myself and as you stated, the Word and the Holy Spirit are His eternal guides.

God has set a plumbline and it isn't always a pleasant one to adhere to. Our flesh does war against what is spiritual.

This is a good post.

**Re: - posted by holiness1214 (), on: 2008/10/4 22:22**

Should preachers make it a practice to preach on this plumb line that God has set up for the standard or should they leave that alone.

Also to what extent does the outside reveal what is on the inside if any at all.

**Re: - posted by EvangelistC, on: 2008/10/28 22:44**

The Holy Spirit will convict us if we are His. We don't need to push our convictions off on others. We catch the fish and let God clean them.

**Re: - posted by holiness1214 (), on: 2008/11/9 0:15**

First of all while I agree we should not push OUR convictions off on others I do believe that it is the responsibility of the preachers to preach and call sin what it really is, SIN, whether it be an inward problem or if it be an outward problem. If this is not so then why does the BIBLE say

preachers are to teach the difference between the holy and the profane (Ezk.22:26;44:23)and one of the reasons that preachers were given to the church was for the perfecting of the saints(Eph.4:12). If the BIBLE says that it is a sin then we as preachers must preach (stand) against it.

Re:, on: 2008/11/9 10:51

"It is bit what enters into the mouth that defiles the man, but what proceeds out of the mouth, this defiles the man" Matt 15:11

"But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man." Matt 15:18

Eventually, our outward holiness will be brought to the light if it is truly in vain, God will bring it to the light. As He did with the Pharisee's in this chapter, they had an outward righteous and holiness, following their traditions; but God knew their heart, and brought in the truth. For these people honor me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.

I agree with preachers needed to preach sin, shining the light on sins. However, we as believers have a greater responsibility to humble ourselves before the Lord with regard to sin, whether we hear from the pulpit or not. We must open ourselves up to the truths and honestly examine ourselves.

As I was reading through some scripture and then a commentary, God chastened me with truth. I first was angry at God, because I thought I was doing the right thing...traditions of men...but as I honestly looked at what God showed me, I humbled myself before Him and confessed that sin. There was no preacher, there was no one but the Lord himself. But we are under no excuse if we have no one to tell us the truth of our sins...but ourselves.

:-)

Re: - posted by sonofthunder (), on: 2008/11/9 19:22

My take on this after having just submitted a word on "the highway of holiness" - Is Yes God is interested in the outside of the cup being cleansed also! For example there is a passage that says "If iniquity be in thine hand put it far from thee" ...And if thine hand offend thee cut it off and cast it from thee ... And we are told in scripture to dress modestly - which is a passage the brothers have already brought to mind and attention. The problem with the pharisee and the religious approach is - It often BEGINS its journey of sanctification (purification) from the without to the neglect of the WITHIN ...and there-in lies the problem - as you can be relatively clean on the outside but have (deep dark) thoughts raging on the INSIDE ( But true HOLINESS starts from the INSIDE/OUT ) THE PHARISEE HAD THE OUTSIDE LOOKING RATHER GOOD AND PRETTY ....but, but, but - Inwardly he was full of hypocrisy and all UNCLEanness. Again Jesus told them during the sermon which was on the mount: You can commit adultery with another man's wife (in your heart) and not physically have to go to bed with her ( and yet remarkably still be guilty of adultery) As unchecked and unbridled thoughts often spill over into actual deeds and acts. And again my own take on this is - the pharisee and saduccee felt very secure and comfortable in the knowledge that others could not possibly know their thought life....so they knew, they could front up to church week after week, and week after week and hey nobody is the wiser ... as to what is going on in my heart and thought life - and my reputation gets to remain in tact ( sounds like a fair deal to me). Hmmm. And No doubt many a religious person has secretly told himself he has not offended as he did not actually commit the act or deed! However Jesus came along and knocked that MIND-SET on the head! Again you might not see yourself as a murderer -- but if rage, anger, animosity, and enmity are warring with-in... then you have already committed murder in your heart against your brother ( period/fullstop )! That's why I shudder and get disturbed when I see brothers wrangling and quarreling amongst themselves over doctrinal disputes ....as it tends to be a downward spiral that can only have one ending....and that is this - he that does not love his brother ABIDES in DEATH. If you don't love your brother there is plenty of occasion of stumbling IN YOU 1st john's epistle says. But still we justify it to ourselves....saying yeah but I don't agree with him! Or his words! or his writing style! or his tone! or the way it comes across as it is to confronting - or to coarse etc Friends can I talk plainly with you?? If we can't love one another ...That is we who profess to be IN Christ....how can we love those that really hate us and revile us ( ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF FUTURE PERSECUTIONS)? And if you only love them that love you back....you have achieved NOTHING...for sinners do the same. God loved us the bible tells us - even when we were sinners . ( Now that's love!) WHEN YOU CAN LOVE THE UNLOVABLE AND THOSE THAT CAST OUT YOUR NAME AS EVIL! Friends at SI allow me to implore you for a brief moment...I have no angst against anyone -- though I be dis-agreed with on many an occasion and disputed at times heavily. But in spite of that and those moments God said to me - here is your opportunity to prove you abide me and in my Son ....I want you to Love them back - that cast you down and utterly reject you!

At first I thought (Whoa) that's a huge ask....but yet a very biblical one ...to boot

So then: Am I saying all and sundry must now embrace my teachings or my obvious strong leanings towards the King James version (no im not) But what I would say like the apostle is " If man believes he is Christ's -- then let him of himself b

believe this also -that just as he is Christ's ...so am i - also Christ's!!

Even a heretic is afforded 2 warnings before he is totally rejected (so what does that tell us?) The purpose of the admonitions is to restore the man, not destroy him ( that's not walking in love when one chooses not to hold to another's beliefs but in doing so - you cast out their name as evil?)...Now If after warning no. 3 he remains stubborn and unyielding....then yes reject his company. But having said that: If i saw or encountered a heretic on the street i could still say hello to him and smile at him - and yes even shake his hand! Doesn't mean that i should keep his company or talk about spiritual things with him.

And yes All of this has to do with holiness from with-in! Sometimes you have to wonder whether people are almost secretly glad about the truth that no one else can know THEIR thoughts...because they have a cloak that shields them from being KNOWN or found out ...as to what might really lurk beneath (Jesus said if i had not come they would have had a cloak for their sins...NOW have they NO cloak for their sins)....The pharisee IN THE TEMPLE said i am not as the publican, or as the unjust, or extortioners, or even as this publican!

But only one man went home justified that day...in spite of the fact ...the pharisee had his OUTWARD morals and his veiled outward standards.

You have to wonder how many a church corridor has had people who don the religious face and the religious smile and put on the religious voice but within his heart was a torrent and a raging fire that was just full of envy, covetousness, hostility, foolishness, lust, adulterous thoughts, despicability, malice. etcetera.

Jesus reproved the pharisee saying first cleanse that which is WITHIN that the OUTSIDE of the cup may appear clean also. Their outside cup was not fully clean (anyhow) if you really read the text fully - their outside cup was only partially clean....which mind you is the fatal flaw of NOT starting the cleansing process from within.

We are told to put off the old man with its deceitful lusts and put on the new man which after Christ is created in true holiness and righteousness!!

The Scribe and pharisee had a cold clinical approach to holiness that castigated out those that were not part of the "ingroup" or them that failed to tow the line according to their views of separation....hence the outright sinner was not someone to sit down to eat meat with. The sinner and publican were considered to be LOST and without HOPE - and not someone to associate with ...but Jesus came not to call the righteous....and those that had morals....but sinners in need of repentance and to them that "admit" - - to being the sinners!!

This is borne out in the book of Exodus also as the Egyptians considered it an abomination to eat food with the Hebrews - and also in the gospels the Jews had no dealing with Samaritans whatsoever....the sinners in Christ's time were so segregated and so marginalized ...that they were considered to be far gone - and too hard core to reach and restore...hence the pharisees targeted the religious folks both to proselyte them and to persuade them over to the Jews' religion ... and alas it was thought to be much easier to convert them - as they are folk who already believe in the almighty and/or are superstitious!! Forget the hardened sinner - let's convert them of other faiths instead... rings a bell doesn't it? as it ( sounds much like our modern day approach to bridging) eh?