

Bible Study

February 15 & 16, 2017

Holy in Christ... Holy in Life

Small Group Reflection (Approx. 5 minutes)

- What is a holy life... is it important to God? To you? Why? How?

Fill in the blanks:

- The word "holy" means _____... or _____.
- Sin is not just *what* we _____; it is *who* we _____.
- Holy is not just *who* we _____; it is *what* we _____ because of _____'s we are by the _____ who is in us. (1 Cor. 6:19-20)

What does God say in this week's Scripture Readings?

- Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18 (Word of God from the OT)
- 1 Cor. 3:10-23 (Word of God from the NT)
- Matthew 5:38-48 (Holy Gospel)
- Other: Is. 64:6, John 15:5, Romans 7:1-6 (Marriage Analogy)

What did God say through Luther about "holiness" and holy living?

- Latin: *simul Justus et peccator* = "simultaneous righteous and sinner"
- "It is nothing but a separation from misuse to divine use."
- The seat of holiness is the soul, the Heart of Man... "New birth through Word and Spirit."
- "Piety is believing in Christ and loving one's brother. To achieve this, faith must be activated through the Word."
- "Christian holiness is not active; it is passive. Therefore let no man call himself holy because of the way in which he is

living, because of his works. To be sure, divinely prescribed works are good, and God is strict in demanding them from us; but they do not make us holy before God. You and I are holy... not by active but by passive holiness."

"Faith cleanses through the forgiveness of sins; the Holy Spirit cleanses through His effect on a man's character. This is a spiritual theology which philosophers do not understand, since they call righteousness only a quality."

"To say that you are holy and righteous is not pride... in fact to say the opposite is to deny and blaspheme Christ."

"Later, after the death of this flesh, in the other life, we shall attain perfect righteousness which we now have only by imputation through the merit of Christ... and we are just only by faith, for His sake."

Holy living is not automatic... the analogy of the housekeeper.

Holy living is a battle... "The greater your faith, the greater the conflict will be." And... the battle does not end till death... "Hence the holy apostles themselves often complained about their temptation and sorrow." (Romans 6:7)

The value of personal holiness: "God grants no one His grace that it should lie around and be of no further use." (Matt. 5:16)

Read Together: Romans 12:1-3

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

Personal Reflection Time & Closing Prayer