

Reverend Dr. Major A Stewart



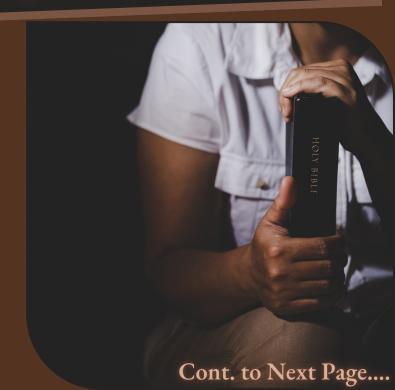


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October 31, 2023

ON LIVING A HOLY LIFE — EPHESIANS 4:17–5:7

For many people the word holiness conjures up images of a self-righteous person who is totally removed from the problems of the world, talks only about "spiritual things" and is serious and even sullen in appearance. Yet the New Testament word holy is used to describe God's people in general and not a select few. Personal Reflection: People often view pastors, priests, missionaries and full-time Christian workers as more holy than other Christians. Why do you think this is so? How do you feel about studying holiness?

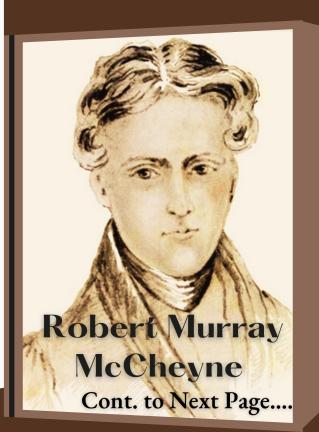




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Holiness is the goal of the Christian's life and is fundamental to our witness and service in the world. Robert Murray McCheyne has rightly written that a holy person is "an awesome weapon in the hand of God." In this light, we need to recapture the biblical call to holy living. **Read Ephesians 4:17**— 5:7.

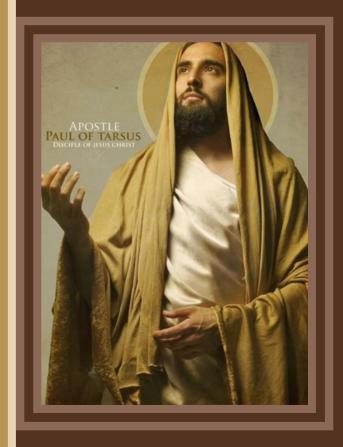




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- 1. In verses 17—19 Paul describes how the Gentiles live. How does he characterize their minds, hearts and practices?
- 2. How does this description compare with the world you experience every day? Explain.
- 3. In contrast to the non–Christians described in verses 17–19, how were the Ephesians taught to live as Christians (vv. 20–24)?
- 4. Putting off our old self and putting on the new is a way of describing what happens when we become Christians. How does this description shed light on the nature of conversion?
- 5. If you are to become like God in true righteousness and holiness (v. 24), why is it essential for you to "be made new in the attitude of your mind" (v. 23)?





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- 6. In practical terms, what can we do to renew our minds?
- 7. Because of our new identity in Christ, what things must be put away, and what things ought to take their place (vv. 25–32)?
- 8. With each command in verses 25–32, explain the reason Paul calls us to live differently.
- 9. How can we imitate God and Christ in our relationships with others (5:1-2)?
- 10. Why is it "improper" and "out of place" for God's holy people to do the things mentioned in verses 3–4?
 Which of these do you have the greatest
- Which of these do you have the greatest difficulty avoiding? Explain.
- 11. Looking back over this passage, what different areas of our life are to be affected by holiness?
- 12. What type of behavior do you most need to put off and put on, and what steps can you take to change this area of your life?



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PRAY THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT
WOULD GIVE YOU AN INCREASING
DESIRE TO BE LIKE CHRIST.
NOW OR LATER
READ ISAIAH 6 NOTING HOW
ISAIAH RESPONDS TO THE
HOLINESS OF GOD.

