

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

(I Thessalonians 4:3-7; 5:23-24)

We are never called to generate holiness, to try harder to be holy, or to add anything to our born-againness to make us holier. But we are invited (“called”) to come to “know how to possess” and express our newness of life “in sanctification and in honor” to God’s glory (I Thess 4:4; Ro 6:4). In other words, to deal with body and soul desires in a manner consistent with who we are... saints! Holy ones of the most high God! This “sanctification” of our dailiness is not a matter of God’s will (I Thess 4:3), it is the question of my will, “Will I release the holiness of Christ into my current situation?” Or, “Will I join my will to the Willer of all things holy?” It does no good to keep saying, “I wish I could be more holy”, or, “I need to try harder to be holy”. We cannot get any holier than to be sanctified in Christ (I Cor 1:30).

We have been re-created to function by His holiness (I Thess 5:24). What were once serving as our “masters” – soul reactions, body desires... soul fantasies, body lusts... have been defeated in Christ. These past “masters” (Is 26:13) are contra-divine voices with contra-divine designs. They are thoroughly “contra-ceptive” to life as God intended His children to live. We may now freely (Ga 5:1) – by faith, with hope, and in love – psychologically (“soulishly”) and even physiologically (“bodily”) confirm the truth of our holiness, our sanctification in Christ. Through Christ alone we confess His holy name and consent to His holy character to reign over such things, join our willer to His will – “our sanctification” – and present our bodies and our souls to Him as “living and holy sacrifices” for His holy purposes. (Is 26:13; Ro 11:36-12:2)

There is nothing passive, careless, or accidental about possessing and expressing through our “vessels” the directive of I Peter 1:14-16, “Be holy as I am holy”. The directive presumes our possession of His holiness! Our response is clearly intentional and decisively cooperative - to be a living expression of the Holy One Himself abiding in us for the release of His character through and as us. In our cooperation with His operation, we are simply “working out” what He has already fully “worked in “... His Holy Spirit! (Phil 2:12,13)

Holiness in its expression is never our performance or ever our achievement. It is the result of nurturing a faithful, hopeful, and loving relationship with our Holy, Holy, Holy God.



- **Tax-deductible contributions** – may be made to *One In Christ, Inc.*  
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## Praise Reports & Prayer Requests

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## Greetings

I'm sure most, if not all of us in the days to come will be face to face with someone in pain, in a crisis, at a point of need. It seems like a good idea to pass along a few ideas that can be helpful to the other in distress.

1) Remember to be a "safe" person. Release the compassion of Christ quickly no matter the issue. Accept the other's "story", even if you may at first disagree (accepting is not endorsing or overlooking sin). Be a listener not a "fixer" and then maintain strict confidentiality - unless they're about to be destructive to themselves or another.

2) Redirect them to Christ. "Below the line" dilemmas have "above the line" solutions. Here is how you help them see or hear God's story (of truth and redemption) in comparison or contrast to their story as they hold theirs up to His. In His light... people can better see rightly.


3) Invite them into "community". Things that are "broken" in relationship(s), are often best overcome and healed in relationship(s). The value of faithful, hopeful, and loving relationships is highly undervalued in our culture. A circle of caring friends, of honest companions, even of warm "playmates" can have immeasurable therapeutic value on a lonely and wounded heart.


### Calendar


#### FEBRUARY


|    |               |
|----|---------------|
| 10 | Alachua Study |
| 24 | Ocala Study   |

### Praise & Prayer

 For the fullness of His holiness in us

 For others who've stood in the gap for us  
at our point of need

 For the Spirit of holiness to reign in us

 For the wisdom to comfort and encourage  
another in distress