

Holiness...

Do You Know What it Means?

Essay by Kenneth A Card

LDS Bible Dictionary: "Holiness:"

“According to the Old Testament, things or places were holy that were set apart for a sacred purpose; the opposite of holy is therefore common or profane ([1 Sam. 21:5](#); [Ezek. 22:26](#); [42:20](#); [44:23](#); [48:13–15](#)). Similarly, a holy person meant one who held a sacred office. The Israelites were a holy people because they stood in a special relationship to Jehovah. *Under the guidance of the Prophets it was seen that what distinguished Jehovah from the gods of the heathen was **His personal character***. The word *holy* therefore came to refer to **moral character** ([Lev. 11:44](#); [19:2](#); [21:8](#); [Isa. 6:3–8](#)). Israel must be holy in character because the God of Israel was holy ([Jer. 7:4–7](#); see also [Matt. 5:48](#)). The Law of Holiness ([Lev. 17–26](#)) shows how the attempt was made by means of ceremonial observances to **secure this holiness of character**. **The attempt failed** because the later Jews observed the letter and neglected the spirit; they attached more importance to the ceremonial than to the moral; and the result was **a lapse into formalism**. But in the writings of the Prophets it is clearly laid down that **the value of worship in the eyes of God depends upon the personal character of the worshipper.**”

It is my personal belief that the reason "the attempt failed" for ancient Israel will be the same reason described above for modern Israel, because the reality is profoundly the same, the ordinances and ceremonies **cannot ever** "secure this holiness of character!" **The only way to "secure" this holiness of character is to turn away from all our fallen beliefs and carnal nature completely** and immerse ourselves totally into our divine nature, *which is the only way one can be sealed to God and to Christ*. If you don't know what your "fallen beliefs or carnal natures" are then use (Galatians 5: 22-26 and Ephesians 5: 1-11 and Jacob 1-3) as a light to guide your beliefs.

Every person has **"authority by faith"** alone to become holy, virtuous, pure and exalted as a "God," as the Prophet Joseph Smith taught in Lectures on Faith which testifies that God is no respecter of persons, but of a divine and holy character alone! Do you believe you have "authority by faith" alone to accomplish godliness of character and become exalted as a god/God?

The answer is an exuberant YES, because God truly is “no respecter of persons,” therefore, it is of little consequence of what religion we belong to or what ordinances and ceremonies we go through, for that is all symbolism and its purpose is to awaken us spiritually! What matters is what our “faith” is truly in. Is it in the “letter of the law” or the “spirit of the law?” It can be both but the end result is not good (Revelations 3: 15-16). However, if our faith is clothed in and immersed in the attributes of godliness, holiness, virtue, impeccable honesty and morality... then by this “divine faith” you can “say unto this mountain, ‘Remove hence to yonder place,’ and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you” (Matthew 17: 20) **and greater things than these shall ye do** [John 14: 9-14].

But if our “faith” is or has been corrupted by false beliefs, lies, deceit, dishonesty, immorality, anger, criticism, frustration, then we must ask ourselves, am I still wallowing in this type of faith and ego? If so, is impossible for that kind of faith to heal the sick, raise the dead, and heal the blind, deaf, and crippled; and bring us into the presence of our Father.

Our faith must be clothed in purity for these things to come to pass (Lectures on Faith 1-7). Hence the importance of all 7 Lectures on Faith in our lives...they truly are the “doctrine of Jesus Christ” (Lecture 1:1) ...showing us the simple path to become like God; and the beautiful thing is, is that this kind of pure simple faith is innate to all and therefore available to everyone, no matter who they are, for all have the potential to become as God is by “faith” alone!

If our beliefs do not line up with Lectures on Faith 1-7 then we should let go of those beliefs or they can and will damn our progression into exalted realms with God.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against [or with] such there is no [letter of the] law [that can save us, but the spirit of the law only].

And they that are Christ's [are godly in their nature] **have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.**

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.”
(New Testament | Galatians 5:22 - 26)

“BE ye therefore followers of God [godliness], as dear children;

And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice [as an example that we would give up completely our false beliefs and carnal nature] to God for a sweet smelling savour.

But fornication [adultery, polygamy and all forms of immorality], and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, [who worships the “letter of the law”] hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

Let no man deceive you with vain words: [giving in to adultery, fornication, LGTBTQ and polygamy lifestyles] for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

Be not ye therefore partakers with them.

For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye* light in the Lord: **walk as children of light:**

(For the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them.*” (New Testament | Ephesians 5:1 - 11).

“Wherefore, my brethren, hear me, and hearken to the word of the Lord: For there shall **not any man** [ancient or modern] among you have save it be **one wife**; and concubines he shall have none;” (Book of Mormon | Jacob 2:27).

“Behold, the Lamanites your brethren, whom ye hate because of their filthiness and the cursing which hath come upon their skins, are more righteous than you; for they have not forgotten the commandment of the Lord, which was given unto our **fathers** (“fathers” meaning, going all the way back to Adam)—**that they should have save it were one wife**, and concubines they should have none, and there should not be whoredoms committed among them.”

(Book of Mormon | Jacob 3:5).

Many have been led astray by false beliefs, false teachers, and false doctrines. The only way to see clearly is to understand the nature of godliness and holiness which is defined by true worshipers who worship the Father in the fruit of the Spirit and in the “truth” of that Spirit which is innate to a character of holiness. Hence God declares: “Sanctify yourselves and ye shall be holy; for I am holy.” The one wife system when lived in holiness is the only system that is free from adultery...any

other system (LGBTQ, polygamy, etc.) breeds immorality and sin, where the “fruit of the Spirit” does not dwell nor does it sanctify a single soul.

“And again, verily I say unto you, that whoso forbiddeth to marry is not ordained of God, for marriage is ordained of God unto man.

Wherefore, it is lawful that **he should have one wife**, and **they twain** shall be one flesh, and all this that the earth might answer the end of its creation;

And that it might be filled with the measure of man, **according to his creation before the world was made.**” (Doctrine and Covenants | Section 49:15 – 17)

In the “becoming” sense or spiritual sense, there are “save two churches only” in the world. One is the “church of the Lamb of God, and the other is the church of the devil” (1 Nephi 14:10-12). One partakes of the “fruit of the Spirit” and the other the “lusts of the flesh” (1 John 2:16; 1 Nephi 22:23; 2 Peter 2:18; Galatians 5: 15-21) One is “Holy” the other “Profane,” there is no in-between!

“But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law,” [meaning the “letter of the law.”] (New Testament | Galatians 5:18)

The outward law or “letter of the law” has always been around for a reason and purpose (to awaken man spiritually), the “letter of the law” is in religion, in politics, in tribalism, in governments, in cults, in armies and navy’s and the list goes on and on. On the other hand, the “Spirit of the law” is the only law that can change our hearts from carnal, devilish and sensual to the divine, holy and pure. For some it may take millenniums to figure that out and for others years and for others days and when it happens it awakens you, transforms you! The scriptures call it being “born of God,” or “born of the Spirit,” or being caught up in the “Spirit of Elijah or Elias,” it is all the same. It is when our “hearts” turn to the godliness of our fathers’ character, and we forsake the carnal ways and false beliefs and false traditions of our fallen nature that bind us like a chain to an image (or religion) of our own choosing for better or for worse! It is not “religion” that frees us but the Holy Spirit within, which we immerse ourselves into! It is the discovery of finding the “kingdom of god” within; that “holy” “temple” within you! In the process, you actually assimilate into the likeness of the Father as Christ did! This is a “mystery,” because only you can create and experience it for yourself! And it is “free” for all to discover!

“And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness” (New Testament | Ephesians 4:23 - 24)¹

¹ Last edited April 1, 2019 / www.MarriageAndPolygamy.com