

4. God is Holy:

1 Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his **holy** name. 2 Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all **his benefits**—3 who **forgives** all your sins and heals all your diseases, 4 who **redeems** your life from the pit and crowns you with **love and compassion**, 5 who satisfies your desires with **good things** so that your youth is **renewed** like the eagle's. 6 The Lord works **righteousness and justice** for all the oppressed... 17 But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who **fear** him.. "But just as he who called you is holy, so **be holy** in all you do; for it is written: "**Be holy**, because I am **holy**." 1 Peter 1:15, 16

Definition of Holiness: 1) Perfect in **goodness** and 2) **righteousness**, totally 3) **set apart** and **separated from all sin and evil**.

Goodness: Kind and generous desire to help others to become all they were made to become, **void of all evil**. Prov 3:27—"Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act." James 4:17—"So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin."

Righteousness: Acting according to God's moral laws, free from wrong, guilt, or sin. You always **do what is right and just**. 1 John 2:29 "If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him." Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be **born of water** and of the **Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." John 3:5

- Water: Natural birth and cleansing—Ezekial 36:25 "I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols." Spirit—new life only from the Holy Spirit 2 Cor 3:6

Separation: God is perfect—wholly **set apart** and **separate from** all sin and evil.

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who **called you out of darkness into his wonderful light**." 1 Peter 2:9

What exactly are we supposed to be separated from?

- 1) **The wrong way of meeting our social needs.** Toxic relationships of co-dependency and abuse.\
- Stay away from bullies who force their opinion on you without listening to your suggestions and cause you to sin. Stay away from those who are changing you. (See Psalm 1:1) Pray for them.
- Stay away from solicitors online that lure you away by cleverly disguised ads for health and/or pleasure. Leave the media that is like a hook that lures you into the devil's domain.
- Stay away from places where the drink makes you unable to control your emotions to the point where you compromise sound judgment. God's spirit wants to control you. Sin is stupid.
- Stay away from forming a romantic relationship with someone who doesn't know the Lord. "**Do not be joined together with those who do not belong to Christ**. How can that which is good get along with that which is bad? How can light be in the same place with darkness? 2 Cor 6:14
- Stay away from forming a business partnership with someone who isn't a believer-- person of integrity, honesty, generosity, or humility. How can you utilize prayer in your meetings?

2) **The wrong way to satisfy our physical desires.** Getting our needs met by improper or foolish choices.

- Stay away from foods/drink that hurts you—a temple of God. Take care of the body ‘loaned’ to you. *“Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. **Therefore honor God with your bodies.**”* 1 Cor 6:19,20
- Stay away from addicting media that wastes time and talent and makes God or His creation look foolish or evil. Spend your time creating, relating-- discipleship, meditating on His word!
- Stay away from improper relationships held in secret. Run from the potential disaster. *“Can a man scoop a flame into his lap and not have his clothes catch on fire?”* Prov 6:27

Question:

- Does life consist in the abundance of possessions?
- Eating, Entertainment, and the worship of the human physique—an overemphasis on beauty and appearance?

3) **The wrong way of determining value and truth.** Where do you go to find your truth?

Review questions:

- 1) **Why do we withhold good and ignore our desire to do the right thing?**
- 2) **Are you born again? How did you become a Christ—follower? Explain.**
- 3) **What thoughts, attitudes, or actions do you need to change in your life?**
- 4) **What temptations (people, things, or places) do you need to avoid or cut yourself off from like the “vine that is strangling the evergreen?” Do it now!**

New questions:

- 1) **Are you meeting your social needs in the wrong way? Are you in a toxic relationship?**
- 2) **Are you meeting your physical needs in the wrong way? Do you have a bad habit?**
- 3) **Are you believing a lie from the evil one? In what way do you determine the truth?**

Note: Discuss the answers and then pray for each other.