

Holy People of God

The Psalmist writes, "LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill?" (Psa15:1). This Psalmist wants to know who is able to approach God. This is a critical question for all of God's people. Under the Old Law, the priests and only the priests were to go before God's. They were made holy by ritually cleansing themselves before being in His presence (Exo. 28:41). Today, Christians are priests and we must give the same reverence before approaching God (1Pet. 2:9). However, it's not the same ritual cleansing.

It first starts when we are cleansed of our sins in baptism (Acts 2:38). Then we seek a life of holiness because he said, "Be holy, for I am Holy" (1Pet. 1:13-15). We do that by allowing the word of God to make us holy or sanctify us (John 17:17, Eph. 5:26). We don't seek the former lusts that wage against our soul, (1Pet. 1:13, 2:11). We separate ourselves from living a life of sin and immorality and pursue a life that is holy and upright.

The Psalmist tells us a bit more about holiness. He explains that a great part of our holiness and our ability to go before God is determined by how we treat other people. The Psalmists says to "walk upright," "work righteousness," and to "speak truth" (Psa. 15:2). If the word is truly sanctifying or making us holy, it'll reflect on how we treat other people. We're basically being told to live as a holy people among an unholy world - but do it right. Hasn't this always been God's plea for His people in the Old or New Testament? Do you recall the greatest command and the other that is like it (Matt. 22:37-40)? As we seek to do as the Psalmist says, let us be reminded of the eternal home after this temporary home. With eternity in mind, we should be able to walk amongst our brethren, neighbors and friends in love (Lev. 19:18, Matt. 19:9) knowing that we have hope amongst a world that is seeking hope. How we treat one another and conduct ourselves in the world will determine if we are truly able to approach our holy God.