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**Love Leads to Holiness**

***1 Thessalonians 3:11-13***

We live in a day where holiness is out and love is in. But here’s the thing: that’s not possible. According to Scripture, you can’t have love without it leading to holiness. According to Scripture, there is no such thing as holiness that isn’t grounded in love. And according to Scripture, if you’re version of love downplays, ignores, or rejects holiness, it’s not really love.

Love leads to holiness. And holiness is grounded in love. If you don’t have love and holiness, you don’t have biblical Christianity.

1. **We must grow in love (vv 11-12).**
2. **Love comes from God (cf 1 John 4:9).**
3. **Love is shown to others.**
4. Love should be shown to believers.
5. Love should be shown to all people.
6. Love should be modeled by leadership.
7. **Love should always be increasing.**

You don’t love your brothers and sisters as much as you could yet, so keep growing in love!

1. **So that we will grow in holiness (v 13).**
2. **Holiness comes from God.**
3. Our positional holiness comes from God (2 Corinthians 5:21).
4. Our practical holiness comes from God (John 15:1ff).
5. **Holiness is an attainable goal.**

* The Bible repeatedly puts blamelessness as a goal and a description of people (Job 1:1; Luke 1:6).
* John tells us that if we say we have no sin, we are a liar (1 John 1:8).
* We must combine these ideas and realize that blamelessness does not mean sinlessness; it means there are no glaring faults (Philippians 3:16; Hebrews 8:7).

1. **Holiness is motivated by Christ’s return.**

* Jesus is coming back

Love says hard things. Love does hard things. Love kicks unrepentant believers out of church and prays that their eyes would be opened to the awfulness of their sin. Love tells people who believe in Buda and Allah and Krishna and who read all the books of Moses but none of the books of Jesus that they are headed for hell if they don’t accept Christ as their one and only Savior.

Love leads to holiness, so if you aren’t loving, you aren’t holy. If the love that we have for each other and for the world doesn’t lead to a purer church, and doesn’t call a dying world to faith in Christ, then what we have isn’t love but some kind of cheap substitute that calls itself love. Love leads to holiness.