

Handout

Session Six: Law, Gospel, and Sanctification

Memory Verse: "We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death" (Romans 6:4).

Even the pagan philosopher Plato was greatly concerned with the issue of holiness. In our modern society, however, holy has become a four-letter word in more than the literal sense. Though we are inundated with aids and advice for self-help and self-improvement, holiness, it seems, is not something to which our world aspires. To the contrary, being "holier than thou" is an accusation with which no one wants to be charged.

1. Why do you suppose many people have such an aversion to talking about holiness? With what do you think most people outside of the Christian church associate the word holy?
2. Compare James 2:26 and Ephesians 2:8–10. What do these passages have to say about the relationship between Law and Gospel in the Christian's life?
3. Read Romans 6:14-18. How does Paul's explanation further clarify your answer to question 2?
4. Compare Matthew 15:1-9 and 1 Timothy 4:1-3. What distinction is made between works that are truly good and other forms of obedience? On what basis is this distinction made?

5. In the first session of this study two uses of the Law were discussed. Read Psalm 119:9-16 and Psalm 119:105-6. In what further manner does the psalmist say the Law is to be used?

6. Compare Colossians 3:8-10 and 1 Peter 2:5. What illustrations do the authors use? Who is at work in the continual process being illustrated?

7. Compare John 17:17-19; Philippians 1:4-6; and Philippians 2:12-13. How do these passages further clarify your answer to question 4?

8. Compare Romans 7:18-23 and Philippians 3:12-14. What does Paul's own experience tell us about the nature of sanctification?

9. Compare Galatians 3:1-5 and Galatians 6:13-14. What strong warning does Paul give about misunderstanding sanctification?