

What we're learning in Holy Homes

Holy Homes is a group of believers who meet on the 2nd & 4th Mondays of each month at 6:30 pm to sharpen one another by discussing topics relevant to having a holy home. These notes are a summary of what the Holy Homes group discussed in the last meeting. If you're interested in joining this group call Josh Norris at 884-4762.

Zeal for the LORD

As Disciples of Christ, what are we to be zealous for? Good deeds (Titus 2:14), Salvation of others (Romans 10:1), God's glory (Num 25:11, John 2:15-17), The faith (Jude 1:3), God's work (I Cor 15:58), Good things (Gal 4:18), Spiritual gifts & edification (I Cor 14), Righteousness & God's kingdom (Matt 6:33), His people (Isaiah 26:11), Welfare of others (Col 4:14).

Why is zeal important? What does the bible say about those without zeal? Zeal shows where our treasure is. True zeal requires obedience. If we say we have fellowship with Him and walk in the darkness, we are lying! (I John 1:6) Zeal requires that once our hand is to the plow, we focus on the goal. Lack of zeal, seen in Revelation 3:16-19, is nauseating to God but misdirected zeal can be just as bad. Romans 10:2, Galatians 1:14, Acts 21:10 and Philippians 3:6 all show examples of zeal placed in things other than God. Ultimately lack of zeal, or misdirected zeal, is likely a symptom of a greater problem. Zeal should come fairly naturally for true disciples. We simply need to be sure we don't allow the cares of the world to crowd out our zeal for the Lord.

What should a zealous disciple look like? What activities will they be involved in?

Evangelism, serving, gracing, loving, meditating, ministering, and fellowshiping. Simply put, disciples who are zealous look like Christ. Those who are zealous for God are always found doing good and are not caught off guard when He returns. (I Thess 5) I John and James are great pictures of what a zealous believer looks like. If we say we love Him, and yet we tepidly wander thru life... that should bring into question whether we TRULY believe. If we truly believe He is a rewarder, we will seek Him in faith. (Heb 11:6)

How is righteous zeal different than legalism, morality or a peppy, energetic attitude?

Zeal is basically excitement... Godly zeal means we are sold out for Him. Sold out for making Him look good, loving Him, serving Him. Not forcing others to obey rules. Morality, legalism...these are just counterfeits. They are incomplete versions of zeal. Legalism and morality do not produce true growth but instead take the rules and make them into the goal instead of a means by which we can love and serve Him. Really legalism and morality is about us. They make us feel or look good instead of making Him look good. Someone who smokes for example, would be shunned by the moralist. The moralist believes smoking is wicked. In reality the smoker may be doing a better job pursuing holiness than the moralist! Along the same lines, being happy is not equal to zeal. Someone can be laid back and be more zealous for God and His truth than someone who is happy but not pursuing Him. Sometimes being overly energetic can cause us to burn out quickly. We can spring up quickly but have no roots. A steady and consistent pace will achieve more than short energetic bursts of service and love. In the end our relationship with God governs the boundaries of our zeal.