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Principles of Christian Growth

Section Three: The Results of Christian Growth – How does it bless us?

Lesson Five: Personal holiness is a blessing of growth.

Bible Reading: Ezek. 22:23-31, Daniel 1:1-21, Rom. 12:1-2, 1 Cor. 10:23-11:1, 1 Thess. 4:1-8, 1 Pet. 1:13-19, 1 John 1:5-7, 2:15-17.

It is the nature of young children to imitate their parents. As the children of a holy God, believers are called to lives that imitate the holiness intrinsic to our Heavenly Father's nature (1 Pet. 1:15-16). As the beneficiaries of His saving grace, we are called out of darkness into His marvelous light, and then we are called to walk in that light as He is in the light (1 John 1:7). The world is not our home, and we must guard our lives, families, and churches from its dangerous spiritual influence (1 John 2:15). Personal holiness is a blessing of growth into Christlikeness.

Discussion questions:

1. The prophet Ezekiel lived in a day of God's judgment upon a chosen nation. That outcome might have been prevented had God found a man willing to repair the hedge that protects God's people from His just destruction (22:30). What damaged the hedge? (vv. 25-29).
2. Our Bibles tell us that the world is a spiritually dangerous place for believers (1 John 2:16-17). What makes it dangerous (v. 15), and how do we avoid the damage this danger can do to us (Rom. 12:1-2)?
3. Some make personal holiness a matter of the heart rather than of the body, the inside of the life rather than the outside. They might even charge some with being Pharisaical for their outward standards of personal holiness. What would Christ say instead (Matt. 23:25-26)?