



A NEW LOOK AT HOLINESS

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The message of holiness is inherent in the nature of God and is indelibly stamped in the laws that govern the universe. God is a holy God. His message to man is, "Be ye holy for I am holy."

Life must be subjected constantly to the searchlight of review in order to avoid recession, stalemate, and even stagnation. The class meetings of early Methodism were valuable as times of spiritual inventory.

An encouraging sign of our time is that a new look is being taken at holiness. The most recent appraisal occurred at a meeting in Chicago, November 30 to December 2, attended by representatives of a number of holiness denominations, schools, and official observers. The theme around which the discussions of this conference centered was "Federation Without Merger."

The new look at Chicago recognized the "togetherness" of holiness. Isolationism has been a weakness of our movement. The spirit of "go it alone" is not the true spirit of holiness. We are dependent upon one another for attainment, growth, and the spreading of holiness.

A new consciousness is arising among the holiness leaders concerning the importance of presenting to the world the image of federation and "togetherness" to supplant the image of separationism. The Chicago conference recognized the value, in some cases, of merger among holiness denominations. The more things we do together, the more vital will our holiness become in making an impact upon the world.

A foremost ingredient of holiness is quality. First of all, there is the quality of motivation. Is all of our motivation centered about the will of God? Do we sincerely pray about everything pertaining to our lives, "Not my will, but thine be done"?

A high degree of quality is set forth in

the King's highway

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connection with the sacrifices under Levitical law, the tabernacle in the wilderness, and the temple in Jerusalem. The sacrificial animals were without blemish. The building materials and furnishings of both the tabernacle in the wilderness and the temple in Jerusalem were of the highest quality. Holiness brings a new degree of quality to all the relationships of life. If this increased degree of quality is lacking in any of our relationships, we should take a new look at our holiness.

In holiness we find the fulfillment of love in all human relationships. The new commandment which Jesus gave pertained to loving one another: "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another" (John 13:34).

We should seek quality in all our service and offerings unto God. In our daily living, our health, our food, our exercise, our dress, our houses of worship, our work, we should seek to maintain the high degree of quality which is in keeping with the spirit of holiness. Although some have associated inferiority at certain levels as compatible with holiness, yet it is quality at all levels of life which is the unique and distinctive characteristic of holy living.

While quality must always be given priority in the holiness message, quantity is also a distinctive part of the message. The quan-

tity represented in the Great Commission Jesus gave His disciples is the whole world. Jesus is concerned about the quantity in new disciples who are gained as a result of our holiness. The population explosion is moving ten times faster than the new converts we are making. What kind of a harvest of souls is this in a world where the birth rate is now 2.14 every second?

In the Book of Acts we find numerous statements about the remarkable numerical increase of new disciples. Large numbers were added to the church daily of those who were being saved. The norm of holiness is an increasing harvest of souls, well beyond the population explosion of the world.

The "all the world" of the Great Commission includes all the relationships in human society. An objective of holiness is to transform human society at all levels. We can give a cup of cold water without giving it in the name of Christ; but we cannot properly take the name of Christ without giving a cup of cold water. We can play the role of the Good Samaritan without taking the name of Christ; but we cannot properly take the name of Christ without playing the role of the Good Samaritan in relation to all human need. Every phase of life is involved in the reference Jesus made when He said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).