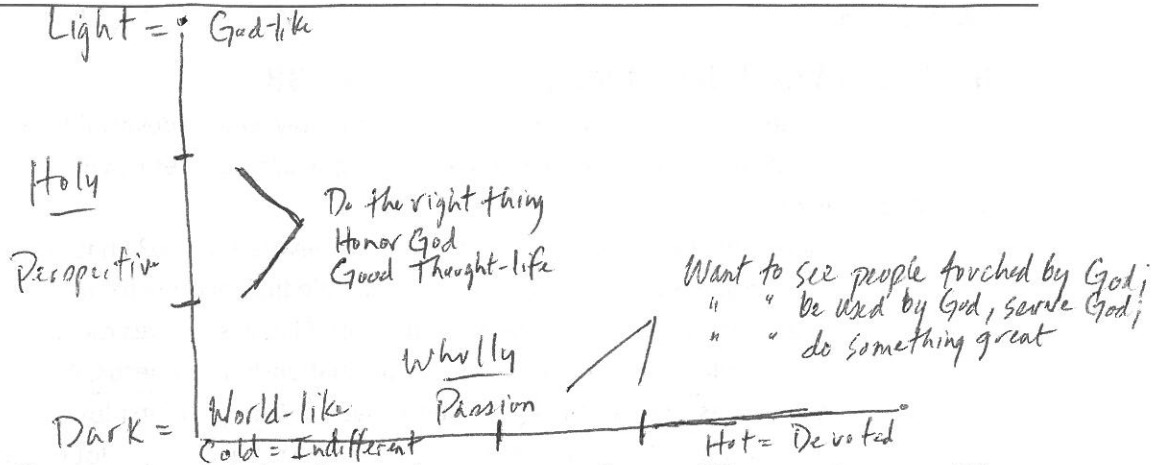


- Kenneth
- Fasting & Prayer. How is it going?
- Dory Schoeneck

# Living Holy, Wholly Unto the Lord, pt.2, 1.17.16

## Intro

### 1. Graph



### 2. Summarize first message – holy is to live a unique, separate, from a different order type of life.

To be “holy as God is holy” is the ability to live the life of heaven on earth.

- You have a new heart and it is good. Meditate on Col.2.6-3.17.
  - My old sinful nature has been done away with and I have a new nature in me. My sins are forgiven, my old sinful nature has been removed, I am not bound by the Law of Moses, I am not bound to the devil or any wicked spiritual power. I have a new life in Jesus, I am united with Him and I have the HS living inside me.
  - At the same time, I have old mindsets and old ways of doing life and lies that I believe all of which need to be changed. This happens as he says in Col through building my life on him, letting his message and all its richness fill my life, teach and sing the wisdom that he gives. and living from that new nature that is in me.
- Renew your mind – Rom.12.2 – Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then (when your thinking changes as God deals with those old mindsets and lies) you will learn how to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. How this happens:
  - Following the movement of the HS. Letting him check you and being sensitive. During this 28 Day Prayer & Fasting, he’s been challenging me on this world-like or god-like perspective.
  - Living from God’s perspective as the Scripture describes. We follow God’s Word. Surrender to it.
  - Following the example of Jesus of how he related to people, His Father, life’s problems and death. His teaching and life showed us how to live a holy – unique, of a different order, from a different perspective – life.
  - What does living like heaven on earth look like? What does life look like there and what do I need to do to live it here. The place isn’t what changes you, but it’s that your perspective has.

## **Big Idea: Ongoing encounters with God's love is what makes us wholly unto the Lord.**

### **The Call to Wholeheartedness – Mt.22.37-38**

1. Why is this important? Jesus wants a bride who is holy, wholly devoted to Him. God wants us to love him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, b/c He loves us with all His heart, soul, mind and strength.
  - a. Don't you want your spouse to be wholly devoted to you? I hate those seasons when the busyness of our lives impedes Stephanie full devotion to me...when she's preoccupied with taking care of whatever. I know she loves me, but I'm not feeling her love. I believe it's the same way in our relationship with Jesus. As we drift from him, due to busyness, stress, sin, etc he senses we are losing our first love.
    - i. Rev.2.2-6 – The church at Ephesus was busy doing a lot of great things. At one time, it was a revival center but their devotion to Jesus had greatly diminished. Now, they were serving for God (v.2-3) rather than being lovers of God (vs.4-6). Lovers will always outwork servants. Serving God without the foundation of devotion will lead to burnout, disappointment and wounding. They were about to be extinguished if they did not return to their first love – the pure and undivided devotion to Jesus (2 Cor.11.3).
2. Jesus prayed that we would know the wholehearted love of God for us
  - a. John 17.23, 26
  - b. Rom.5.5 – We know how dearly God loves us b/c He has given us the HS to fill His heart with His love.
  - c. Experiencing over time God's wholehearted love turns us into wholehearted lovers.
3. Our primary assignment in this life is to grow in our love from God and for God. The outflow of this growth will be a greater love for yourself and a greater love for others. As we come to experience His wholehearted devotion to us, we are able to give our wholehearted devotion to Him and others.
  - a. 1 J.4.19 – We love Him b/c He first loved us.
  - b. Jn.15.9 – As the Father loved me, I also have loved you; abide in my love.
    - i. Likewise, as we have been loved by the Father let us also love others.
4. Christianity is an ongoing encounter of love with Jesus. Being dedicated and making radical commitments will not keep us steady unless we encounter love. It's not enough to labor to change a city or reach a nation or to make a great impact for God. The labor will wear you down if there is not a constant infusion of the love of God in your life. To be "wholly dedicated" to Jesus means that you are loving Him fully and fully experiencing His love.
5. Sustaining a fresh love relationship with Jesus through the decades is the definition of what it means to live radically before the Lord. You aren't radical just b/c you do something unusual for

a few weeks or months. You're a radical if you are both expressing your love for God and experiencing His love more fully over the decades.

- a. Two critical questions we need to answer in the light of eternity: Did I live in God's love and did I give it to others?
- b. Wholly-ness isn't just about doing more activity or crazy enthusiasm just as holiness isn't just about being pure and following the rules. It's walking in the experience of God's love and it changing your life. The experience of the Father's love is what drove Jesus to the cross, not just the feeling of duty to accomplish the Father's will. "Father, you love me. Father, I love you. And Father, we love them."
  - i. David lived here – One thing I ask of the Lord-the one thing that I seek the most- is to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life. Ps.27
  - ii. Daniel lived here – Daniel knelt down on his knees three times that day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days. Dan.6.

## Cultivating Wholeheartedness to God

1. Obey Him. Jesus explicitly taught that to love Him wholly meant they you obeyed Him. In our 1 John reading this past week, there is a continual emphasis on obeying God's command to love one another. There is no such thing as loving God w/o seeking to obey Him.
  - a. John 14: If you love me, keep my commandments...He who has my commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves me...If anyone loves me, he will keep my word.
    - i. Obedience opens the door for greater experiences of God's love.
    - ii. Obedience in every area. People want a short cut down the long and narrow road to abundant life.
  - b. We must love God on his terms. This is a key issue before Jesus returns. Will we agree and obey His word or will we be influenced by the culture to disregard or downplay it?
  - c. Different levels of obedience:
    - i. Affection based obedience that flows from experiencing Jesus' affections for us. The Father loves us with the same intensity that He loves Jesus. This truth gives us confidence to stand before God as a dearly loved child. (1 J.3.1)
    - ii. Duty based obedience is to obey God even when we don't feel His presence. It's obeying regardless of how I feel.
    - iii. Fear based obedience is obedience motivated by the fear of negative consequences. We don't want to feel shame or experience God's discipline.
    - iv. Performance based obedience is obeying to get your approval or to make myself feel good.
  - d. A sustained reach for 100% obedience is powerful. No one will ever be 100% obedient 100% of the time, but stretching for that % positions us for a life of blessing. It is saying to God that we want Him more than anything.
2. Believe the Bible about who you are in Jesus and how God feels about you because of your faith in Jesus.

- a. His body, His bride, friend, child – all term of endearment, closeness, intimacy.
3. Pray out & believe Eph.3.16-19 & Romans 8.31-37 and expect God to answer it! Faith says this is reality before God not my experience.
4. Encounters with God's presence. The vision of Willow is "encounter the life changing presence of God." Encountering his presence means that you set aside time to meditate and contemplate on His goodness. Focus on his goodness and the benefits of following the Lord. A "spirit of accusation" fills the world and it's keeping people from experiencing the fullness of God.
5. Walk in the love of God now like you will in next life. I don't get more forgiven in the next life; more love in the next life; more joy; more peace, etc. It's that the limitations that I put on those realities in this life will be removed. I will be able to access what was already there w/o any hindrances.
  - a. Use exercise ball and ping pong ball. The exercise ball is the full measure of love I have access to, but I'm only experiencing the ping pong ball.
  - b. Sin, brokenness, and satan's resistance all hinder, but the biggest hindrance is my limited and unrenewed mind. Other limitations include: voices of others, unanswered prayers, bad doctrine, etc.
6. Your emotional, relational and physical life will affect how fully you experience and release the love of God. These things can be barriers to wholeheartedness and I encourage you to seek healing and restoration in these areas.
  - a. Examples: Broken relationships with family & friends, wounded, abuse, destructive words, traumatic experiences, deep rejection, etc.

## Conclusion

1. Big Idea: Ongoing encounters with God's love is what makes us wholly unto the Lord.
2. Willow's new vision is that we would encounter the life changing presence of God. The first priority statement is that "Jesus is at the center of our lives." We are wholly devoted to Him.