

## **Holiness Study #4**

### **What Does It Mean to Be Set Apart and Holy as God's Children?**

**Holiness:** A condition of purity or freedom from sin or of being set apart to special service.

**God's Holiness:** God's separateness from all else and particularly from all evil.

**Intro:** Churches often resort to all manners of strategies and plans in their attempts to attract visitors and win converts. What practices have you seen that you would categorize as worldly or completely God-honoring?

After three chapters of instruction in the foundational truths of God, Paul shifts his emphasis from beliefs to behavior. As the Ephesians grasp what God has done for them and in them, they should begin living out in practice what is already true of them in principle. They should live transformed lives with a decided difference between their old lifestyles and their new lives in Christ. They should be set apart from those around them. They should stand out. The same goes for us.

#### **Ephesians 4:1-16**

**Question #1:** Paul begins with an urgent plea for the Ephesians to live a life worthy of the calling they have received. What does he mean by this and why does he start off with this? In what specific ways are you failing to live a worthy life?

**Question #2:** What obstacles impede the maturing of an individual Christian, fellowship or local church? What do you see as the biggest area of improvement for our fellowship and church?

**Question #3:** Do you see the church/community of Christ as one body? What makes it easy or hard to see that?

#### **Ephesians 4:17-32**

**Question #4:** In practical, everyday terms, how does a Christian put off or put away wrong attitudes and habits?

**Question #5:** If the old self is dead and removed at salvation, why do we still have such an intense struggle against sin? What connection does Paul make between sound doctrine and sanctification?

**Question #6:** Which of verses 25-32 do you have an easy or hard time within the church settings? How can the group pray for you?

**Application:** It has been said that the only reliable evidence of a person's being saved is not a past experience of receiving Christ but a present life that reflects Christ. How accurately does

your life reflect the holiness and goodness of God? The fellowship? The local church? As you finish this study, do you feel more comforted or convicted? Why?