*THE PURSUIT OF HOLINESS* by Jerry Bridges

**Chapter Four– “The Holiness of Christ” -2 Corinthians 5:21**

“As we study more fully the implications of “Be holy because I am holy,” we will see more of our own sinfulness. We will see the wickedness and deceitfulness of our hearts, and how far we miss the mark of God’s perfect holiness. As this happens, the true Christian will in his heart flee for refuge in Christ. It is important therefore that we understand the righteousness of Christ, and the fact that His righteousness is credited to us.” pg.27

***“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” (2 Corinthians 5:21NASB)***

**T** he Scriptures testify that Jesus, during His time on earth, lived a perfectly holy life. pg. 27

**H** e is described as “without sin” (Heb.4:15); as One who “committed no sin” (1 Peter 2:22) and

**E** ven the apostle John stated, “In Him is no sin” (1 John 3:5). The sinlessness of Christ is the universal teaching of the Bible in both the N.T. and the O.T. pg.28

**H** owever, even more compelling, is Jesus’ own testimony concerning Himself. pg.28

**O** ne time He boldly asked the Pharisees, *“Can any of you prove me guilty of sin?”* (John 8:46)

**L** eading up to this question, Jesus had just exposed the Pharisees hatred of Him. (Jn.8:39-45)

**I** n light of Jesus’ statements to the Pharisees, His own question to them proved His sinlessness.

**N** ow there are 2 aspects of Christ’s holiness: His absence of sin and His doing His Father’s will.

**E** ven Christ’s perfect conformity to the will of His Father displays His absolute holiness. pg. 28

**S** cripture reveals our Lord’s words, “…I always do the things that are pleasing to Him” (Jn.8:29)

**S** uch a declaration must include not only His *actions* but also His *attitudes* and *motives*. pg.28

**O** ur motives must be holy…arising from a desire to do something *simply because it’s God’s will*

**F** or if we desire to live in the will of God then we should desire to speak, act & think like Christ.

**C** hristian sister, know that as you desire and are growing in holiness, you must often flee to the

**R** ock of your salvation--confirming in your heart the truth that you have been accepted by God

**I** ndeed through the righteousness of Christ alone. This is where assurance of salvation comes!

**S** ee again Jesus’ unstoppable passion to do the will of His Father,*’I always do what pleases Him’*

**T** oday, do we dare take that as our personal goal in life? Are we truly willing to scrutinize *all* our activities, *all* our goals and plans, and *all* of our impulsive actions in light of this statement: **“I am doing this to please God”?** pg 31

Ladies, are you living for the glory of God? Or are you living in a way to glorify yourself?

“When Christ came into the world, He said, *“I have come to do Your will, O God”* (Hebrews 10:7). This is the example we are to follow. In all of our thoughts, all of our actions, in every part of our character, the ruling principle that motivates and guides us should be the desire to follow Christ in doing the will of the Father *(motivated out of a heart of love for Him-italicized added).* This is the high road we must follow in the pursuit of holiness.” pg. 32

Ladies, by God’s grace, let’s continue together to not seek and feed our own desires and our own wills, but to humbly seek and feed on our Father’s desires and will for our lives within the pages of the living and life-transforming Word of God!

Blessings, Christyn