

“A Pure Life – It’s Worth the Effort”
(Rev. Robert Heffernan)

“But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.” (1 Peter 1:15)

Water is a magnificent creation. Apparently, they’ve found it on Mars! Anyhow, water follows a principle that is called the *path of least resistance*. The path of least resistance is a physics term that describes the pathway that provides the least resistance to forward motion. Due to gravitational force, water takes the path of the least resistance resulting in pools, lakes, and oceans.

People are the same way (just not on Mars!). We have a tendency to follow the path of least resistance. It’s easier at times not to clean the house. It’s easier not to shovel the driveway. It’s easier to flick on the television than to sit down and read some of the Bible or pray with your spouse.

So to jettison our propensity towards spiritual apathy, I want to remind you of holiness. Seen as offensive, legalistic, even irrelevant or just plain obsolete, holiness is all about living a life that *strives* to grow deeper with God by becoming pure from the inside out. According to J.I. Packer, holiness is a life set a part for God by becoming like the God one serves. Now you might be thinking who cares or why does it even matter?

Well, it matters because your soul needs it. Just like you seek pure water, pure organic food, pure and healthy relationship, etc., deep down you are seeking a spiritually pure life. In fact, I would suggest your whole life you’ve tried to find it in things that cannot satisfy your soul or truly quench your thirst, so you keep trying different things to fill that longing inside you.

Whether we admit it or not, we intrinsically know that something is wrong, sick, even destructive about our world that we find ourselves chained to. Our world is filled, actually, enslaved by sin. Sin is destructive, like vandalism, in a way that disintegrates the person and community by polluting the very core of who we are supposed to be.

This is where Jesus comes in. Like an addict needing intervention, God can intervene to set your life on a new path toward healing and wholeness from the inside out. You cannot be pure on your own; you need divine intervention. To admit this is to get on the path of becoming truly human.

Please hear these words: “Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labour on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to Me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest fare. Give ear and come to Me; hear Me that your soul may live.” (Isaiah 55:2-3)

Purity of the soul begins by coming to God through faith in Christ. It leaves the impure temptations of the world behind by coming to God so that our souls might truly live.