## Introduction

Holiness is an old-fashioned, irrelevant concept to most people today, even in Christendom. Yet God has always commanded His people to be holy; holiness is essential to biblical Christianity. True Christians have traditionally emphasized holiness, rejecting as unholy various aspects of worldly lifestyle. In recent years, however, many professing Christian groups have discarded much of this teaching.

In studying and developing biblical holiness it is important to address several key questions. What is holiness? What are important principles of holiness, and how are we to apply them practically in our lives? How can we be holy, and why should we? Where do standards of holiness come from? Are they biblical or man-made? Are they universal and unchanging or cultural and temporary? How can we maintain scriptural holiness while avoiding legalism and upholding Christian liberty?

## 1. The Call to Holiness

The Bible calls followers of Christ to a life of holiness, and it stresses the essentiality of holiness. "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14).

(Essentials of Holiness by David K. Bernard, Hazelwood, Missouri, Word Aflame Press, Kindle, 2010 [1989], Location 79 of 570)