

# SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

## LESSON 2

For the grace  
of God  
that bringeth  
salvation  
hath appeared  
to all.

Titus 2:11



## IS HOLINESS POSSIBLE?

*Scripture Texts: 1 John 3:5-10; Romans 6:12-15; Titus 2:11-12*

Holiness is not freedom from mistakes. We are limited in knowledge and understanding. We all make unintentional mistakes. A godly person corrects them when possible. Holiness is not the impossibility of sinning. Anyone can turn from God and sin if he chooses. Holiness is the ability to keep from sin, made possible by the power of God within.

Is refraining from sinful acts all there is to the holiness seen in the Scriptures? **Abideth in Him. Born of God. His seed remaineth in him. The grace of God.** These words hold strong meaning. They are positive words, not negative. They speak of more than not doing outward sins. By means of God's nature in the heart, one is enabled to live without sinning.

**MEMORY VERSE: Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.—1 John 3:6**

### The Saved Are like Jesus

Can one live without sinning and without sin in his heart? Widespread is the opinion that no one in this life can be free from sinning every day. We hear it expressed, "They are good people," or "She is a good person," even though they live in sin. Good is not holy, but holy is good. Possessing good qualities does not make a person good.

**1 John 3:5-7** Here we are given some understanding of the character of the Savior and the saved. He – Jesus – has no sin. His people – those abiding in Him – sin not. Savior and saved are equally sinless. Christ came to earth **to take away our sins**. It is His work. He in His death makes our holiness possible.

### Sinners Are Like the Devil

**1 John 3:8-10** He that committeth sin is of the devil – partakers of the devil's nature. The devil's work is sin. Whatever he touches, he contaminates. Jesus came to **destroy the works of the devil** – to clean sin from human hearts, to remove men from the devils kingdom. He does this by making dead souls live, by giving spiritual birth from God. Those **born of God** do not commit sin because they are removed from the kingdom of sin. Sin's power over them is broken, and another power is in them. **He cannot sin** as long as the **seed** of God, the nature of God, remains in him. To sin, he must first lose God out of his heart. God's children and the devil's children are different and separate. The line of separation is holiness or its lack. They are two families – children of God and children of the devil. One does **righteousness**, the other **committeth sin**.

The difference may not always show on the surface. They mingle in the world as wheat and tares growing together (**Matthew 13:30**). But they have no common nature, desires, pursuits, or goals. How far can we rightly mingle and cooperate? **Can two walk together, except they be agreed? (Amos 3:3).**

### Holiness Is Possible

**Romans 6:12-15** For sin shall not have dominion over you. When Jesus died as our sacrifice for sin, He broke sin's dominion over everyone who accepted His sacrifice. He brought in the dispensation of grace, in which God's life is put into men to enable them to do what they never could do in their own power. The law commanded righteousness but gave no power to help them do it.

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Most people believe in holiness. Even pagans and heathens look for it sometime, someway. A sinner expects a saint to be holy. An unbeliever refuses to excuse any sin in a professing Christian. All Bible readers know holiness is taught there. The question is how and when and where we are made holy.

### Holiness, How and When

**Titus 2:11-12 The grace of God ... hath appeared.** It is here now – free to all men. Those who accept it **live soberly** – thoughtfully, seriously, aware of true values, weighing all things in the light of eternity; **righteously** – doing right, not sinning; **godly** – like God, holy. Living like this **in this present world**. Right now by God's grace.

It is not be effort, good works, suffering, punishment, ceremony, or form. It is the work of God on the soul. It is in this life, not at death or in the next life.

The important thing is not whether a man can be pure before God. Rather, ask, is it possible for God to work in a man and not make him pure and holy? It is possible that God cannot break the power of sin in a person's life? **He is able also to save them to the uttermost ... (Hebrews 7:25)**. Holy lives adorn the doctrine of Christ. Seeing a holy life is the strongest magnet in drawing others to Christ. The one who has never known a holy man or woman is to be pitied.

So, we find that it is not only possible but required by God that people be holy. Like Father, like son. God's children are godly. God will not live in a heart opposed to His nature. They cannot work together as in **2 Corinthians 6:1**. The sinless head (Christ) will not tolerate a sinful body (church). Holiness is the unity that makes the Father and Christ and Their children one (**John 17:21-22**). God's standard for His people is holiness, and it gives unlimited privileges to them. A saint's separation from sin is so complete that it is like a death.

### JUST A THOUGHT

**Nothing else convicts of sin so acutely as sight of Gods righteousness.**

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.  
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