

Be Righteous

Both the OT and the NT call us to “be holy”. However, the covenants behind each of these have different impacts on what holiness is.

Holiness under the Old Covenant was stringent adherence to the Law (Torah) and offering sacrifices to cover sins committed. In the New Covenant, we have the righteousness which was won for us by Jesus,¹ which imputes holiness to every one of us because we are consecrated (sanctified)². There’s a big difference there.

That means we ARE holy in Father’s sight – always holy – so the requirement he puts on us is to live that way. We don’t have to earn our holiness, because it’s a free gift. That means we can’t become more holy by our actions. All we are to do is live righteously as an outworking of our imputed holiness as sons. Putting it another way (from Father’s perspective), we have to learn to live more righteously out of our love for him and our desire to please our Beloved.

When Father speaks to us, he never tells us to be holy, from the perspective of working hard to be perfect so he’ll accept us.

Here’s some recent examples of what Father has said to us about it:

*“Make the most of the time you have today, and **do your best to be righteous in all that you do**. Deal with issues as they come up without projecting out in presumption. The spirit of fear is your enemy, so settle your soul in the assurance that I am with you to guide and direct you’, says the Lord.”³*

*“**It is your job every day to be righteous** and exhibit My character and nature,” says the Lord. “Walk and live in the Spirit. Treat others as you would have them treat you; with love, kindness, goodness and generosity of spirit.”⁴*

So, what does ‘righteous’ mean?

In simple terms, righteous is what is right or appropriate. That means Father’s idea of righteousness is what he thinks is right, not what we think. It’s what is appropriate for us to think, do and say at any time in our daily lives.

Can you see the similarity between ‘righteousness’ and ‘sin’. Sin is “missing the mark” – not coming up to Father’s standard.⁵

Living righteously takes the ‘weight’ (burden) off us to perform. We just need to desire to do everything righteously and listen to the Spirit so we keep in alignment with his wishes.

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24-1-2023

[Updated 13-4-2023]

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(Readers will need to look up for themselves any scriptures alluded to in this document)

1 – Romans 3:21-23

2 – 1 Corinthians 1:2

3 – Marsha Burns “Small Straws in the Soft Wind” (Jan. 18, 2023) ft111.com/smallstraws.htm [ARCHIVE: www.ft111.com/straws2023.htm]

4 – Marsha Burns “Small Straws in the Soft Wind” (April 7, 2023) ft111.com/smallstraws.htm [ARCHIVE: www.ft111.com/straws2023.htm]

5 – “Really Understanding What Sin is from a Spiritual Perspective”

canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Really-Understanding-What-Sin-is-from-a-Spiritual-Perspective.pdf