

REVERENT IN BEHAVIOR

Titus 2:3

“Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior...” Tit 2:3

I. Definitions- What are we talking about?

A. The Greek word for “behavior” describes a position or condition. It is something you are, not just something you do- a lifestyle that becomes holiness itself, to the extent that there is no separation in that person between what is her and what is holy. They are one and the same.

B. The Greek word for “reverent” describes someone who is set apart, dedicated in their behavior to manifesting the same holiness that is a part of God’s own nature.

I Tim 4:12 – “Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.”
Not just talking about older, established women but also young people.

This cannot be faked. We can fake piety, but we can’t fake holiness. We can be “religious” but we can’t become holy on our own.

Isa 29:13 – “...this people draw near with their words And honor Me with their lip service, But they remove their hearts far from Me, and their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned by rote...” God, speaking through the prophet Isaiah, rebuked Israel for going through the motions of following Him but not giving Him their hearts. Their hearts were “removed,” not captured close to Him.

II. Our holy God – the God we worship

A. He identifies Himself with holiness

I Sam 2:2 – “ There is no one holy like the Lord. Indeed, there is no one besides Thee, Nor is there any rock like our God.”

*Isa 57:15 – “ For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy...”*Our name identifies us. God identifies Himself as holy.

B. He calls us to holiness

Lev 11:44 – “For I am the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy; for I am holy.”

I Pt 1:15,16 – “but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’”

Eph 1:4 – “just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him.”

God’s plan is for us to be holy.

III. Our response – How do we become holy, reverent in our behavior?

A. Become women of the Word

Ps 119:38 – “Establish Thy Word to Thy servant, as that which produces reverence for Thee.”

God has chosen to reveal Himself to us through His Word. The more time we spend in it, the more we see of Who He is, who we are and of how He wants us to live. The more we see the more we are drawn to worship.

*Jn 17:17 – “Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth.
His Word sanctifies us – makes us holy.*

How does His Word make us holy?

B. Recognize and deal with sin in our lives.

I Pt 2:11 – “Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul.”

1. “urge” – literally “to call to one side” – or, “I want you to step aside for a moment.”
2. “aliens and strangers” – “resident aliens” in the Greek – “foreigners”

Phil 3:20 – “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.” We should not be at home in the world. Our actions, attitudes should be different. We are permanent aliens in a foreign land.

3. “abstain” – literally, “hold oneself back, restrain”
Do not even begin the process. Don’t even go near. Often sin is a result of a series of choices. We can choose not to start down that road.

II Tim 2:22 – “Now flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.”
God says to run from sin. Do not stop to consider it, to think about—just run!

I Thess 5:22 – “abstain from every form (literally ‘appearance’) of evil.”

4. “which wage war” - pictures the enemy poised for battle to begin; is a planned attack, may begin at any time

Pt 5:8 – “Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

We have an enemy who has declared war on our souls. He is on the hunt. We don't have to fear him because the victory belongs to Christ – (I Jn 4:4 – *Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.*) But we do need to face the reality of his tactics. He would delight in drawing us off-course to make us ineffective.

I Cor 10:13,14 – *No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it. Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.* God will not let you be tempted beyond your strength to resist—therefore, but that doesn't mean you should hang around and think about it- flee!

B. Begin the process

Immerse yourself in the Word of God—read it, pray it, meditate on it, study it, listen to it

Rom 12:1,2 – *I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed, by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

The only verb requiring action on our part is “*present*.” We “present”, in the literal Greek “to place beside” our bodies to God. The picture is of us going up to the cross and laying down our bodies as a gift to Jesus.

The rest of the verbs used are passive: “*not be conformed*” and “*but be transformed*.” The Greek word for “transformed” is *metamorphoo*, which means to be completely changed. It is the same word used to describe Jesus at his Transfiguration:

Matt 17:2 – “*And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light.*”

It's the same word used in II Cor 3:18 – “*But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.*”

God's plan for building holiness and reverence into our lives is for us to first “present” ourselves to Him—to make ourselves available to Him. Then He begins to “transform” us through the renewal of our minds to become more like Him. The Word of God is key to this. As this process continues, we

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become more transformed into His own image, until the day we meet Him face to face in heaven. Being in this process is what His will is for our lives. It is good, acceptable (pleasing to Him) and perfect.

The “habit of holiness” is a quality of life which is developed by God in a woman who chooses to reverence Him daily as she spends time with His Word.

Phil 1:6 – “For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.