

WARM-UP

- Have you ever won or lost a competition by a very small margin? What happened? How did you feel?
- Share about something you learned to do after a long time of practice. How was that for you?
- Have you ever tried very hard not to do something you should not do, but failed? In what ways did you try? What happened after you failed?

WORD *²¹And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²²he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister. **COLOSSIANS 1:21-23***

In this letter to the Colossians, Paul draws a clear line between who we were before our life with Christ, and who we are after. Before Christ, we were *alienated, hostile in mind, and doing evil deeds*. There was nothing we could do to change that. In Christ, we could now be presented *holy and blameless*. However, life in Christ asks us to *continue in the faith, stable and steadfast*. Today, let's look at two truths that when understood and reflected on, will empower us to live lives that reflect God's holiness.

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In Jesus Christ, we have been reconciled to God and made holy.

²¹And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²²he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death . . .

COLOSSIANS 1:21-22

Truly, we were alienated from God and were His enemies because of sin. However, Jesus made a way for us to be reconciled to God by offering Himself to die for our sins. Through faith in Him and in what He did, not only are we restored to a right relationship with God but we are also made holy, that is we are set apart for God Himself. This is our status or standing before God. How have you seen this truth affect your life?

Faith in Jesus enables us to continue living in holiness.

. . . ²²he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister. **COLOSSIANS 1:22-23**

Though believers in Jesus have been made holy, set apart for God, there are still many different aspects and things in our lives that are not Christlike and need to be set apart for God. We still struggle with sin. We still have many flaws and imperfections in our thoughts, words, and actions. The good news is that as we continually put our faith in Christ, God continuously works in us to make us more Christlike so that we can one day be presented to Him as holy and blameless. We will not only be holy in our standing before God but our lives will reflect God's holiness. What does it mean for you to *continue in the faith*?

APPLICATION

- Have you been made right with God through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ? Would you like to receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior by faith today?
- How challenging would you say it is to obey God and live holy? How often do you find yourself attempting to obey or be holy through your own power? How could what we've learned today help you?
- To whom can you share the encouraging truth that Christ's work has provided a way to make those who put their faith in Him holy and that we can live in holiness through Him? Share your testimony and the gospel to this person this week.

PRAYER

- Thank God for making us holy through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Thank Him for making a way for us to become close to Him again.
- Pray for Christ to transform you as you follow Him and live in holiness by His power. Ask Him to give you a deeper understanding of who He is and His heart for the world.
- Ask God for open doors to share Jesus with your family members and friends. Ask Him to give you the words to say as you preach the gospel and talk about Jesus' work that makes those who believe in Him holy.



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Contributors: Ruth Gloria, Esther Suson

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