

### Ephesians 2:8-10

“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that **not of yourselves**, it is a gift of God; **not as a result of works**, that no one should boast.”

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

## Holiness

### Positional

### Practiced

#### Jesus



Faith apart  
from works

We “in Christ”

#### Holy Spirit



Works of  
faith

“Christ in us”



**Positional holiness  
makes us fit for heaven.**



**Practiced holiness  
makes us fit for earth.**

## What changes

*when a person becomes a Christian?*

- ✓ **Some things will not change at all** - my past, circumstances, personality, etc.
- ✓ **Some things will change immediately** - my personal and positional relationship with God.
- ✓ **Some things will change over time** - character, sinful habits, choices, strengths, weaknesses.

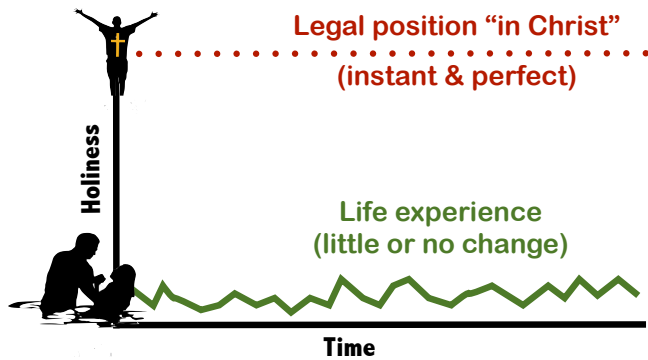
### 2 Peter 1

“2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; 3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us **everything pertaining to life and godliness**, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become **partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.”

“<sup>5</sup> Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your **faith** supply **moral excellence**, and in *your* moral excellence, **knowledge**, <sup>6</sup> and in *your* knowledge, **self-control**, and in *your* self-control, **perseverance**, and in *your* perseverance, **godliness**, <sup>7</sup> and in *your* godliness, **brotherly kindness**, and in *your* brotherly kindness, **love**. <sup>8</sup> For if these **qualities are yours and are increasing**, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> For he who lacks these **qualities** is blind or short-sighted, having **forgotten his purification** from his former sins.”

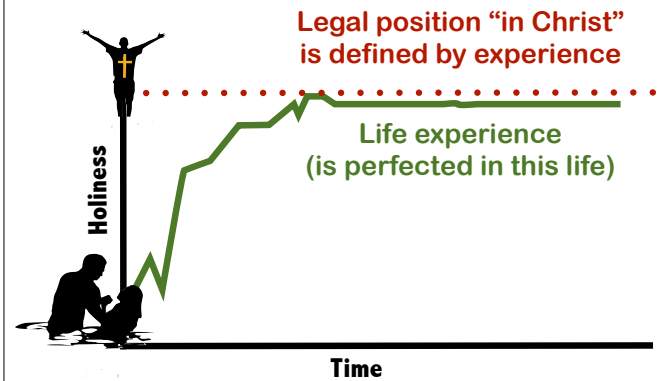
### Mistake #1

**Not enough** change in behavior is expected.

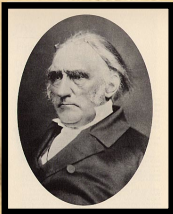


### Mistake #2

**Too much** change in behavior is demanded.



*Asa Mahan*



"There is positive evidence that some did attain to a state of entire sanctification."

*John N. Oswalt*  
(Wesley Biblical Seminary)



"A Christian cannot live in known sin and remain in a saving relationship with Christ."

*Leonard Ravenhill*  
(British evangelist)

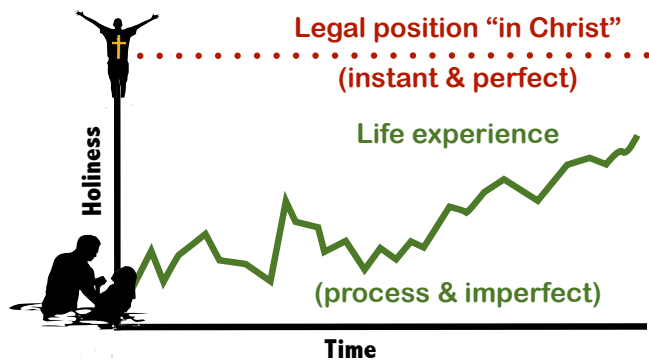


"Get rid of this bunkum about the 'carnal Christian.' Forget it! If you're carnal, you're not saved."

## Common holiness assumptions

1. Holiness has to do with intent.
2. Holiness has to do only with some areas of life.
3. Holiness comes only after a special experience with the Holy Spirit.
4. Holiness means we never continue in sinful behavior.

## What can we expect in this life?



### Philippians 3:12

“Not that I have already obtained it (**the resurrection life**), or have already become perfect, but I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.”

### Galatians 5:17

“The flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.”

### I Corinthians 4:4

“I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet **I am not by this acquitted**; but the one who examines me is the Lord.”

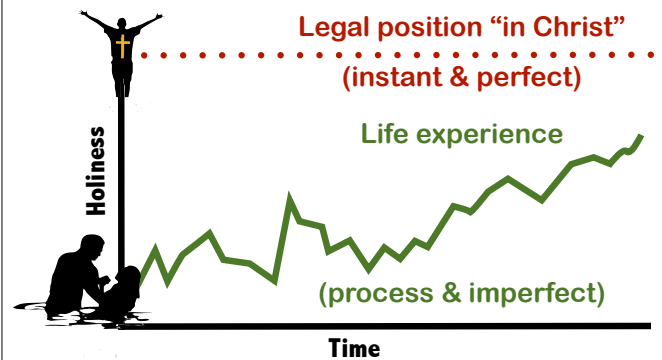
### Romans 7:24

“Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?”

### I Timothy 1:15

“It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom **I am** foremost of all.”

## Our legal standing in Christ is our **security**



## Two systems of reconciliation between man and God

### Paraclete (Enabler)

Jesus' Spirit enables us to be holy through an infusion of his righteousness in us.



### Surrogate (Substitute)

Jesus is our holiness through an imputation of his righteousness to us.

## Charles Spurgeon



“Holiness is not the way to Christ; Christ is the way to holiness. Better still, Christ is our holiness.”

## Our identity and witness

### Paraclete (Enabler)



Jesus' Spirit  
is the Power  
of our ministry  
to the world.

### Surrogate (Substitute)



Jesus' Cross  
is the Good News  
of our message  
to the world.

Our life-style in Christ is our **significance**.



## Common missteps to practiced holiness

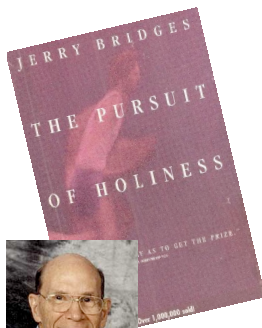
1. Neglecting the need for godly living.
2. Confusing positional holiness with practiced holiness.
3. Making holiness manageable by lowering the bar.
4. Comparing self with others rather than Christ.
5. Mixing spiritual holiness with cultural mores.
6. Expecting a short cut to godliness.

## Observations on the formation of practiced holiness

1. True Holiness is hard to measure.
2. Holy people tend to not focus on a) holiness, b) rules, or c) comparisons with others.
3. True Holiness starts with a renewed mind.
4. Spiritual growth shares common characteristics with physical, social, emotional growth.
5. Factors in spiritual maturation. - *Modeling, Pain, Environment, Temperaments, Spiritual Disciplines, Prayer, Dramatic Experiences, Knowledge of Scripture.*
6. Spiritual growth in holiness is parallel to growth in spiritual / emotional maturity.



**Richard Winter**



**Jerry Bridges**

