

The Call to Holiness: Pursuing God's Standards in a Secular World

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Christian Teachings to Strengthen Your Faith, By Melkisedeck Leon

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Living in a secular world can often lead us astray from God's standards and principles. The constant bombardment of worldly desires, temptations, and influences can make it challenging for believers to remain steadfast in their faith. However, as Christians, we are called to a higher standard - a call to holiness. In this article, we will explore how we can pursue God's standards amidst the distractions of the secular world, using biblical examples and teachings to guide us.

1 Look to Jesus as our ultimate example: Jesus lived in a world full of temptations, yet He remained sinless. By studying His life and teachings, we can learn how to navigate the secular world and live in alignment with God's standards.

2 Embrace the Word of God: The Bible serves as our guidebook for holy living. Whenever we face confusion or doubt, we can turn to its pages for wisdom and discernment. Hebrews 4:12 reminds us, "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

3 Seek God through prayer: Prayer is a powerful tool that allows us to communicate with our Heavenly Father. It enables us to seek His guidance, strength, and wisdom in our pursuit of holiness.

4 Guard our hearts and minds: Proverbs 4:23 teaches us to guard our hearts, for they are the wellspring of life. We must be mindful of the things we allow into our hearts and minds, ensuring that they align with God's standards.

5 Surround ourselves with fellow believers: Iron sharpens iron, and so it is important to surround ourselves with like-minded individuals who can support and encourage us in our pursuit of holiness.

6 Flee from temptation: When faced with temptations, we must learn to flee from them rather than entertain them. Joseph's example in Genesis 39:12, where he ran away from Potiphar's wife, teaches us the importance of resisting temptation.

7 Practice self-control: Self-control is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, as mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23. By cultivating self-control, we can resist worldly desires and pursue God's standards.

8 Love God above all else: Jesus reminds us in Matthew 22:37-38 that the greatest commandment is to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, and mind. By prioritizing our love for God, we can keep our focus on pursuing His standards.

9 Love one another: Jesus also taught us to love our neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 22:39). By showing love, kindness, and compassion to others, we reflect God's character and bring His standards into the secular world.

? Live with integrity: Proverbs 10:9 states, "Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out." Living with integrity, even in the midst of a secular world, will bring honor to God's name.

11 Be a light in the darkness: As believers, we are called to be a light to the world (Matthew 5:14). By living out God's standards and principles, we can draw others closer to Him and inspire them to pursue holiness as well.

12 Practice forgiveness: Forgiveness is a hallmark of holiness. As Jesus said in Matthew 6:14, "For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you." By forgiving others, we reflect God's love and extend His grace to those around us.

13 Trust God's plan: In a secular world full of uncertainties, we can find peace and security by trusting in God's plan for our lives. Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

14 Seek accountability: Surrounding ourselves with fellow believers who can hold us accountable in our pursuit of holiness helps us stay on track and grow in our faith. Proverbs 27:17 tells us, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."

15 Embrace grace and seek restoration: As we strive for holiness, it is essential to remember that we are all fallible and prone to mistakes. However, God's grace is sufficient for us, as 2 Corinthians 12:9 reminds us. Whenever we stumble, we can seek His forgiveness and restoration, knowing that He loves us unconditionally.

In conclusion, the call to holiness in a secular world may seem daunting, but with the guidance of Jesus' teachings and examples, along with the principles found in the Bible, we can pursue God's standards. Let us love God, love one another, trust in His plan, and embrace His grace as we navigate the secular world, shining His light brightly. May you be blessed abundantly as you embark on this noble pursuit of holiness. ??