

## THE BIG IDEA: We're called out to stand out.

### The Take-Off

This morning we're going to tackle one of the most misunderstood words in the church - holiness.

It's one of those words that brings certain images to mind, right?

Maybe you picture this guy (IMAGE - HOLY MAN).

Or this guy (IMAGE - ALONE MAN).

Maybe the thought of living a holy life leaves you feeling like this guy (IMAGE - EXHAUSTED MAN).

However you react to the idea of holiness, if you're like the majority of people, the reaction probably isn't this (VIDEO - CLAPPING MAN).

And while that's totally understandable, it's not good because holiness is, well, pretty important!

**Hebrews 12:14** says that without it, we won't see the Lord, so it seems like we may want to get a better handle on holiness and what it looks like.

That is what we want to do this morning.

As we're exploring how God wants us to stand - we've talked about standing IN, UP, and WITH so far - it's time to talk about the need for the church to stand OUT.

We do that through holiness, and since we've already agreed that most of us have incorrect reactions to that word, I want to really strip this concept down and focus on two points - two aspects of holiness.

It all starts with a 10 cow woman...

## 1. We're called out because of what Jesus did (IDENTITY)

- a. The 10 Cow Woman story
- b. Identity is everything!
- c. Identity changes destiny. Identity fuels activity. Identity is the FOUNDATION of everything we are and do as believers, and the story of the 10 Cow woman illustrates it perfectly.
- d. When we think of holiness, we think of things to do or ways to act, but I want to point something out to you in **1 Peter 2:9**.
- e. Inspired by the Holy Spirit to write the very words of God, Peter - a man who made as many mistakes as he did progress - wrote that, as followers of Jesus, we ARE holy.
- f. Not becoming holy. Not striving to be more holy. We are holy.
- g. This is the first and most foundational truth about holiness that we MUST understand before we go any further: we're holy because of what Jesus already did!
- h. This is the identity of holiness, and the word literally means to be "set apart" or "called out"
- i. Notice that phrase in **2 Peter 2:9** / "called out" of darkness into His light
- j. He has set us apart - we stand out because HE called us out!
- k. Your identity as a son or daughter of God is holy - called out - set apart
- l. Look at **verse 10** / once you weren't a people, now you are / once you had no mercy, now you do
- m. God is saying that we WERE one way, but now we ARE different, and it's ALL based on what Jesus has already done - no work required on our part!
- n. We're called out because of what Jesus did
- o. We're called out for a purpose though, right? Like someone who cuts a piece of pie or cake and sets it aside for later, there is a reason why we've been called out and set apart by God.
- p. What is it? Let's find out in **verses 11 and 12**.

## 2. We stand out because of what we do (ACTIVITY)

- a. What's the purpose? That we would STAND OUT!
- b. **Verses 11 and 12** are all about how we live, and just in case you can hear that "I better earn it" lie creeping back in, look closely at the first sentence of **verse 11** / "I urge you, AS aliens..."
- c. Again, IDENTITY fuels ACTIVITY. We act based on who we believe we are.
- d. Never reverse that! Never think that you are what you do - we don't work for identity; we work from it.
- e. So living a holy life - living a set apart, called out life - flows directly out of our identity.
- f. In other words, HOW WE LIVE flows out of WHO WE ARE.
- g. Think you're only a 1 cow person? You'll live a 1 cow standard.

- h. But if you're really a 10 cow person? You'll pursue a 10 cow standard!
- i. We're called out because of what Jesus did - that's our identity - but we STAND OUT because of what WE do - that's the activity of holiness.
- j. Look again at how identity fuels activity...
- k. 1 Peter 1:15-16 / God's identity is holy, and now our's is, too / BE holy (identity) in all you DO (activity)
- l. The choices we make that may appear restrictive to others are actually just responsive
- m. We are living based on who - or whose - we are
- n. Peter writes about being obedient children, not conforming to evil desires, being self-controlled and full of hope in 1:13-14.
- o. Later he writes about abstaining from sinful desires and living such a godly life that even pagans would go from accusing us of wrong doing to glorifying God.
- p. All of this is activity in response to identity.
- q. We stand out because of what we do - it's the activity of holiness

#### The Landing

The Big idea says it like this: **we're called out to stand out.**

We have been given a new identity - called by God from slaves to sons - that leads to new activity.

We are the called out ones, and holiness is our identity first and our activity second.

**We're called out to stand out!**

Let's pray.