

Issues Concerning Holiness (Sanctification)

1] Holiness: its place in biblical thought.

The doctrine of holiness is an integral part of God's redemptive purpose for us. It is not a "side-street" or a denominational peculiarity.

How integral? *Hagioi* is the preferred way of addressing Christians in the NT epistles. They aren't *hagioi* by achievement, but they certainly are (i) by eschatological promise, and therefore (ii) by aspiration

2] Holiness and mammon.

3] Holiness: God can do something with sin beyond forgiving it.

4] Holiness in Jesus or his people ought not to be stereotyped.

5] Holiness must always be distinguished from religiosity.

6] Holiness never supplants our humanness.

7] Holiness addresses the problem of sin, not the creatureliness of weakness or failure.

8] Holiness does not provide immunity from temptation.

9] Holiness does not mean we've "arrived."

10] Holiness engenders obedience and therefore freedom.

11] Holiness is both by grace and by "grit." (see Bishop J.C. Ryle, *Holiness*, as well as Augustine: *gratia operans* and *gratia co-operans*.)

12] Holiness does not spare us hardship.

Rev. V. Shepherd