

# PURSuing GODLINESS

Six Practical Steps For Pursuing Godliness

July 1, 2012

- I. Preparation for Examining Six Steps for Growing in Godliness
  - A. **Romans 6:1-2, 6, 11-14, 19 . . .** What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? [2] May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? [6] Or do you not know that our old self was crucified with [Christ], in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin? [11] For this reason, consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. [12] Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, [13] and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. [14] For sin shall not be master over you. [19] Therefore, just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.
  - B. Today, we are going to examine some methods and means for doing your part in becoming holy as God is holy. These methods and means have been common among serious minded Christians from the earliest days of the Church, and when practiced over many years, they will bring you as close as humanly possible to God's standard of holy living.
  - C. Pray
- II. Six Suggested Steps For Growing In Godliness
  - A. **Step One:** Examine yourself and select a known, current sinful habit, behavior, thought pattern, fear, compelling desire, compulsion, or addiction to kill off and put out of your life so that it no longer enslaves you or drives you to participate in this sin on a repeat basis. (See handout number one for details.)
  - B. **Step Two:** As much as possible, identify why the sin you have chosen is sin and therefore heinous, offensive to God, hurtful to others, spiritually harmful to you, harmful to your relationship with God, and so ought to be put out of your life. The goal is to become thoroughly convinced it must be removed from your life. (See handout number two for details.)

- C. **Step Three:** Identify what godly thought pattern, desire, value, behavior is to be put in place of the sin you are driving out. Select a scripture or several scriptures to memorize and use in (1) reminding yourself that what you are putting off is worthy of being put off, (2) reminding yourself what godly behavior you are putting in its place and why, (3) resisting temptation, (4) redirecting your thinking when your thinking is headed in the wrong direction, (5) affirming the direction you ought – and hopefully want – to go in, (6) and drawing deeper in to the knowledge of God and communion with God as you talk with God about the verse(s). (See handout number three for details.)
- D. **Step Four:** Count the cost of dying to your sin and to yourself and weigh it against the gain of replacing it with godliness to see if you are willing to pay the price and go the distance in making the change. (See handout number four for details.)
- E. **Step Five:** Prepare for battle each day in relation to the sin you are putting off and the godliness you are putting on. (See handout number five for details.)
- F. **Step Six:** Persevere in fighting the enemy until victory is won. Expect that this will take a minimum of three months and probably more than a year, depending on how much you treasured the sin and how long you have been practicing it. (See handout number six for details.)

### III. Conclusion

- A. **Philippians 3:7-8a** . . . But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. [8] More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.
- B. **Matthew 5:48** . . . Therefore . . . be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.