

The Holy-hood: A Study on Sanctification and Community Standards

Executive Summary

This document explores the concept of holiness based on the teachings of YHWH and the actions of Yeshua. The central theme is that holiness is not a feeling or a supernatural glow, but a state of being "set apart" for a specific purpose. This status is defined by YHWH, not by human tradition or cultural feelings. Key takeaways include:

- **Holiness as a Community Standard:** The command to be holy is plural, meaning it is a goal for the entire community to reach together.
- **The Sabbath and Cultural Drift:** While YHWH set apart the seventh day as holy, cultural traditions have shifted many people toward the first day of the week, often ignoring the original command to "cease" (Shabbat).
- **The Importance of Action:** True sanctification requires "shamar"—not just listening to the word, but observing, guarding, and enacting it.
- **Social and Personal Integrity:** Holiness includes how we treat neighbors, strangers, and family. It forbids defrauding others, lying, and following cultural pressures that go against YHWH's laws.

Defining Holiness: Qadowsh and the "Holly" Connection

The Hebrew word for holy is *qadowsh* (or *kadosh*). It means to be separate, set apart, or sacred. It describes something pure and free from the "defilement of crimes, idolatry, and profane things."

Cultural vs. Biblical Definitions

In modern culture, holiness is often viewed as something supernatural or powerful. People associate it with:

- Holy water repelling evil.
- Crucifixes Thwarting monsters.
- Saints with glowing halos.

The sermon notes a strange link in the English language between the words "holy" and "holly." In ancient times, the holly tree was seen as sacred by Celts and Romans. They believed it protected them from lightning and evil spirits. While scholars say the words come from different roots, common people in the Middle Ages treated them as the same, bringing old traditions into emerging christianity. This shows how human culture often decides what is "holy" based on what they want (like protection or luck) rather than what YHWH has actually defined.

The Community Command

In Leviticus 19:2, YHWH says, "Ye shall be holy: for I YHWH your Elohim am holy." In the original language, "holy" is written to the congregation as *q'doshiym*, which is plural. This means holiness is not just a personal choice. It is a standard for the whole community to live by as a witness to the world.

The Sabbath: The First Set-Apart Thing

The first thing in the entire Bible to be called holy (sanctified) was the seventh day. According to Genesis 2:3, YHWH blessed and set apart this day because He rested, or "ceased" (*shabat*), from His work.

The "Drift" of Tradition

Most of christianity today treat Sunday as the Sabbath. The sermon explains that this is a result of "cultural drift." Humans added their own reasons for changing the day, such as:

- Celebrating the resurrection on the first day.
- Treating Saturday as a day of rest from work, but not for church.
- Claiming that sticking to the seventh day is "legalistic."

Linguistic Evidence

The New Testament mentions the Sabbath 68 times. In the Greek text, the word used is *sabbatone* , a direct copy of the Hebrew word. However, many English translations changed or added the phrase "first day of the week" in places like Acts 20:7 and 1 Corinthians 16:2. This reflects community practice over the actual written word definition.

Social and Personal Conduct

Holiness is seen in how people treat each other. Leviticus 19 and 20 provide specific rules for a "set-apart" life.

Treatment of Others

Action	Requirement under YHWH
Harvesting	Do not reap the corners of the field; leave gleanings for the poor and strangers.
Business	"Do not steal, deal falsely, or lie. Do not defraud neighbors."
Wages	Pay hired workers their wages before the next morning.
Speech	"Do not be a ""talebearer"" (gossip) among the people."
Judgment	Do not show favoritism to the poor or honor the mighty; judge righteously.
Strangers	Treat strangers living in the land as if they were born there; love them as yourself.

Moral Purity and Penalties

YHWH also gave rules for personal and intimate conduct. Violating these rules, such as committing incest or lying with a menstrating woman , carried heavy penalties. These people were often "cut off from among their people." This shows that personal sins have public consequences because they destroy the holiness of the community.

The Danger of Cultural Pressure: The Case of Herod

The story of King Herod and John the Baptist shows the struggle between holiness and social pressure. Herod had married Herodias, his brother Philip's wife. John the Baptist told Herod this was not lawful.

- **Herod's Conflict:** Herod knew John was a "just and holy" man and liked to listen to him. However, he was also a man of "vanity."
- **The Trap:** On Herod's birthday, Herodias's daughter danced for him. Herod made a rash oath to give her whatever she wanted.
- **The Result:** Pressured by his "lords, high captains, and chief estates" watching him, Herod chose to behead John rather than lose face. This story warns that following "what is fitting of your station" or social reputation can lead to breaking YHWH's commands.

Conclusion: Being "Doers" of the Word

True sanctification requires active participation. James 1:21-25 describes the Torah as a "law of liberty."

- **Hearers vs. Doers:** Someone who only hears the word but does not do it is like a person who looks in a mirror and immediately forgets what they look like.
- **Shamar:** To truly follow YHWH, one must *shamar*—observe, guard, and enact the word.
- **Separation from the Past:** Believers are told to "gird up the loins of your mind" and not follow their "former lusts." Holiness is a manner of life and conduct. As written in 1 Peter 1:16, the standard remains simple: "Be ye holy; for I am holy."