



Week 6 - 2024

Serving the World: Social Holiness

God's grace has changed our lives for eternity, and He sends us into the world to be agents of change for His Kingdom. We are called to bring a holy and positive influence as salt, light, and hope. Part of our spiritual formation is embracing this call to social holiness.

Starting thought for your group -

- The last 5 years have been times of great challenge globally; a pandemic, financial stress, racial tension, wars in Ukraine and Israel, political polarization, and rapidly changing morals and values. How has the Church, as the Body of Christ, been a voice for hope and truth? Are there ways has the Church perhaps fallen short of our call to be salt and light?

Watch Video #6, then discuss...

Social Holiness: Works of Mercy and Service

Nazarene Manual Appendix 915 - *"We call upon Nazarenes everywhere to identify and seek to remove acts and structures of prejudice, to facilitate occasions for seeking forgiveness and reconciliation, and to take action toward empowering those who have been marginalized."*

Social Holiness in John Wesley's Time - fighting slavery, injustice, & racism:

- In the video, Pastor Scott shared these examples..
 - **John Newton**, former slave owner turned hymn-writer of *Amazing Grace*
 - **William Wilberforce**, Member of Parliament and leading abolitionist
 - **Anthony Benezet**, The Teacher
 - **Granville Sharp**, The Lawyer
 - **Josiah Wedgwood**, The Businessman
 - **John Wesley**, The Methodist Minister
- Although they came from varied backgrounds and experiences, each of these disciples of Jesus used their God-given abilities, position, and influence for God's Kingdom work. **How do these lives of social holiness in action inspire us today?**

We Are Called to Service in Love:

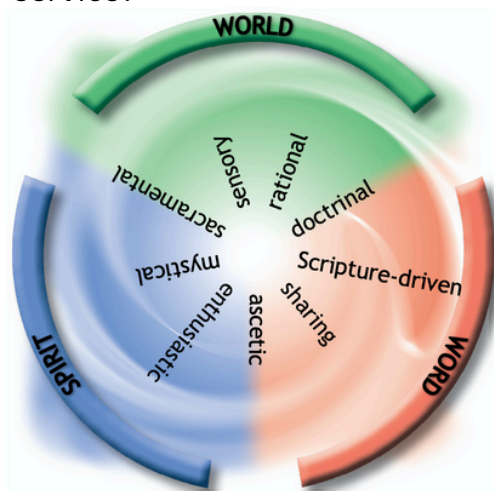
- John Wesley wrote about discipleship - *"Solitary religion is not found there. The gospel of Christ knows of no religion, but social; no holiness but social holiness. Faith working by love is the length and breadth and depth and height of Christian perfection."* We are saved by grace through faith, and that faith is lived out in our words and actions.
 - **Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21** - what do you think Paul means for us to live as "ambassadors for Christ"?
 - **Read Ephesians 6:10-12** - It's easy to feel that our battle is against people! But how can we apply this passage to the problems we see in our world?
 - **Read Micah 6:6-8** - As we consider the habits and practices that please God and honor His name, what does this passage call us to focus on?
 - **Read Genesis 1:26-27** - All people are created in the image of God, so this is the basis for their worth, value and identity. How does this passage challenge injustice, oppression, and discrimination?
 - **Read James 1:27 & 3:8-10** - Strong words from James! Share how these verses speak to you.

EN-CORE JOURNEY

SCRIPTURE • BELIEFS • PRACTICES

Not of the World, but still in world!

It's clear in the New Testament that being a disciple of Jesus engages our heart, head, AND hands. Most of our previous habits of spiritual formation focused on our thoughts, feelings, choices and attitudes, but this session is about how we actively live out the life formed by the Holy Spirit. In light of the call to social holiness, how can you engage your unique spiritual formation style on the chart below into actions of love and service?



Accountability!

How could your group practice social holiness together in your community? Is there an act of love and service you could do?



A “Rule of Life” serves as a template to order our spiritual formation practices as we develop intention in the process of growing in grace in our relationship with God. This chart is a guide - you don’t need to fill in every box! Consider the practices we have discussed in **The EN/Core Journey**, pray for guidance, discuss with your family, and develop your personal Rule of Life. Some examples are given, but let the Spirit guide your practices!

Spiritual Formation Rule of Life	Works of Piety: Personal & Family Word, Prayer, Abstinence & Fasting	Communal Practices: Communion, Baptism, Corporate Worship, Christian Fellowship	Works of Mercy: Social Holiness in caring for souls and bodies of others
Daily: <i>AM - When you rise up...</i>	<i>(Scripture reading, prayer, journaling, family prayer)</i>		
<i>When you are in your house...</i>	<i>(Family prayer before meals)</i>		
<i>When you are along the way...</i>	<i>(Discussions in car, listen to worship music)</i>		<i>(Pray for unsaved friends & family)</i>
<i>PM - When you lie down...</i>	<i>(Evening prayer, family prayer)</i>	<i>(Pray for Pastors, church leaders)</i>	
Weekly Rhythms:	<i>(Family Sabbath, fasting)</i>	<i>(Attending church)</i>	<i>(Volunteering at church)</i>
Monthly:	<i>(Tithe, giving to missions)</i>	<i>(Invite a family over)</i>	<i>(helping a neighbor with chores)</i>
Seasonal:	<i>(Observe Christian & Biblical holidays)</i>		<i>(Serve at a shelter or rescue mission)</i>
Annual:	<i>(Creating a family budget to include giving, serving at a mission)</i>		<i>(Donate items, time)</i>