

The HOLY Spirit (Pt. 2) – “A Holy SETTING”

The Ministry of the Spirit

July 19, 2026

Series Chapter - "HOLY" ...The Holiness Equation

"A Holy Identity" (Pt. 1) + "A Holy Setting & Mission" (Pt. 2) = "Holy Images" (Pt. 3)

INTRO ...The Strange Disconnect between “Giftedness & Holiness”

...We intend to whole heartedly pursue, stir, and invigorate our being a "Spirit-Filled-Church"!! ...while remaining in touch with being a "HOLY Spirit-Filled-Church"

LAST WEEK

...Peter's revelation of a "Holy Identity" that comes to us through God's Divine Call (God creates this in and through us)

1 Peter 1:14-16 ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵ but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

... "Identity" is (and has always been) a tricky self-dimension to manage

"You might be going through what is known as an identity crisis if you start doubting your values or purpose and starting to doubt yourself. Erik Erikson, a developmental psychologist, coined the term “identity crisis” and also came up with the concept of identity crisis in adolescence and midlife. ...You might start to doubt or question your identity or self-worth if you’re going through an identity crisis." What is Identity? ...Identity refers to those qualities, beliefs, and characteristics of a person or a group of people that make them unique and different from another person or group." (Australia-counseling.com)

THIS verse is DEFINING!! ...This traces us back to Our ORIGIN!—Our Original Design!

"HOLY" (*uniquely created, distinguished from creation, set apart*), as **GOD is HOLY!**

THIS WEEK

... "HOLY" also informs (1) The SETTING of the Ministry of the Spirit ... [Next Week] (2) The MISSION of the Ministry of the Spirit

THE SETTING (of the Ministry of the Spirit)

...it is "unique, distinguished, set apart"

1 Peter 1:14-16 ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵ but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

...**He who called you** ...NOTE: we don't "self-generate" our holiness--it comes from God!

Exodus 19:1, 3-6 ¹ On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. ... ³ while Moses went up to God. The LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: ⁴ You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; ⁶ and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."

...This is "defining" and "assigning"—It is Identity Clarifying

>> The Summoning to a Special Status! ...Is God's Gracious Doing!

Deut 7:6-11 ⁶ "For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷ It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸ but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹ Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations, ¹⁰ and repays to their face those who hate him, by destroying them. He will not be slack with one who hates him. He will repay him to his face. ¹¹ You shall therefore be careful to do the commandment and the statutes and the rules that I command you today.

?? - WHY This Setting??— Ex. 25 ... "That I may DWELL ('tabernacle') among you"

>> "Religion" and "The Church-World" can/does have an aloof or 'moral-superiority-club' feel to it—especially if the first thing the church always wants to talk about is BEHAVIORAL

>> BUT... when we encounter "Holy Living" at Mt. Sinai (Mosaic Law) ...the purpose for it is Not FIRST to form a 'Moral-Superiority-Club' ...it is to Form a Setting Where God Would Dwell AMONG Us!!

Ex. 25:8 "And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst"

>>> The Rest of the Levitical Law at Mt. Sinai is Related to THIS!!

...**ILLUST:** Imagine one day man gets this genius idea to "Put FIRE Inside His House"!! ...Ok, you'll need to create a "Special Dwelling Place" for that Fire! ...Why? Because of the Nature of FIRE!! (It consumes oxygen, it generates great heat, it incinerates what it

comes in contact with, it has toxic smoke, it needs ventilation, etc.) ...THUS ("Fire would say")

- Ex. 25:8-9 *"And let them make me a ~~sanctuary~~ (fireplace), that I may dwell in their midst. ⁹ Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the ~~tabernacle~~ (fireplace), and of all its furniture, so you shall make it."*

...It is PECULIAR how we have made "Behavior" ("Holiness") a HORIZONTAL Matter!!

...These "lifestyle choices" exist in God's plan—because GOD IS a CERTAIN WAY!

...Holiness is NOT First a Man-Centered (Horizontal) Concept! ...We don't establish the boundaries, rituals, traditions, morals, etc. because we are mindful of "people-to-people" values and concerns! ...When our "Church" or our "Religion" goes "Horizontal"—it stops being "HOLY" and merely becomes "HUMAN"! (Like "Red-states & Blue-states", like people on "That side of the tracks vs This side of the tracks", like "Conservative & Liberal", like "Traditional & Contemporary")

...In a "dwelling sense" ...Holiness is about the Presence of God Being IN THAT PLACE!

"It is everywhere. We hear about it all the time. It is alluded to in the sermon. We call for it in our prayers. We sing about it in our hymns and choruses. For Christians, it is hard to escape. As I write this paragraph, I have just returned from a Christian college's chapel service where I counted seventeen references to it in a fifty-minute service... In fact, I think you would be hard pressed to leave your own sanctuary this Sunday without at least one reference to it as well. What is this refrain we hear over and over again in our churches, small groups, and devotionals? It is the presence of God.

...But there is a problem. As we constantly hear these vague references to God's presence, the concept remains just that: vague. So as our churches sing the chorus of divine presence, many of us simply do not have ears to hear what it means.

...Talk of God's presence is part of the white noise of evangelicalism, a catchphrase that means as little to the one saying it as to the one hearing it. This is typical for many of us. The more we hear something, the less we tend to contemplate its meaning and significance. Unfortunately, this is quite dangerous—especially for the church. ... the presence of God is more than a mere buzzword of evangelicalism; it is a strong, fresh current of living water that fills jars of clay like you and me. It is central to the hope-filled message of Scripture." **Lister, J. Ryan.** *The Presence of God: Its Place in the Storyline of Scripture and the Story of Our Lives* (p. 20-23). Crossway. Kindle Ed.

The COMMUNION Setting

1Cor 11:17-32

...We can turn this passage into "church-behaviorism" or whether we've hurt someone else or mistreated someone with our words or anger ...and we can even seek to "fix the horizontal"

-- But we can do that while remaining distant and unmindful that—THIS is God's DWELLING PLACE!—a Consuming Fire is In This Place!

...What precedes 1Cor 11 ...1Cor 3 ¹ But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ² I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not ready. ³ For you are still of the flesh, For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?" ...¹⁶
Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?"

PAUSE and Ponder the "Manner of Our Communion Taking"

...We are the BODY of CHRIST—Where The Spirit of God DWELLS!!