

Grace Evangelical Free Church
Checklist for Holy Living

“...but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct....”

(1 Peter 1:15)

To be holy means to be set apart or separate from sin and evil. God is holy—completely separate from everything that is evil (**1 John 1:5**). God calls us to be holy, just as He is (**1 Peter 1:16**, quoting **Leviticus 19:2**), but it's vital to understand that apart from God this is impossible. We must have the Holy Spirit indwelling us and filling us with His holiness. We can only live a holy life through the power of the Spirit; thus, the first step to living a holy life is to accept Jesus as Savior (**Ephesians 1:13**).

Once we have taken that step of salvation, we are declared righteous (**Romans 5:1**). But what does it look like to be actually righteous—to live a holy life? Living a holy life is being obedient to God in all areas of life (**1 Peter 1:14–16**). The following provides a helpful ‘check list’ or guidance dealing with life's conduct considerations. Remember: we are not trying to live a holy life in order to earn salvation; living a holy life is a natural outgrowth of being saved by God's grace and filled with His Spirit. It is also important to not give up when we mess up. When we fail, our response should be to confess the sin and keep moving forward in our Christian walk (**1 John 1:9**). **Romans 8:1** says, **“There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”** God's grace doesn't go away when we make mistakes.

Daily Observances for Spiritual Health

1. *Read your Bible daily.* Do not be content to skim through a chapter merely to satisfy your conscience. Hide the Word of God in your heart. It comforts, guides, corrects, encourages – all we need is there as to specific “do's” and “don'ts”.
2. *Learn the power of prayer.* Prayer is communicating. Every prayer that you pray will be answered. Sometimes that answer may be “Yes” and sometimes “No,” and sometimes it is “Wait,” but nevertheless it will be answered.
3. *Rely constantly on the Holy Spirit.* We know that the Holy Spirit prays for us (**Romans 8**), and what a comfort that should be to the weakest of us. Stand aside and let Him take over all the choices and decisions of your life.
4. *Attend church regularly.* The visible church is Christ's organization upon earth. Christians need one another, we need to gather together to worship God. Nothing can take the place of church attendance.
5. *Be a witnessing Christian.* We witness in two ways: by life and by word – and the two should go hand in hand.
6. *Let love be the ruling principle of your life.* Jesus said to those who followed Him, **“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another” (John 13:35)**. The greatest demonstration of the fact that we are Christians is that we love one another.

Reverend Tony Raker
Grace Evangelical Free Church, 718 E. Queen Street, Strasburg, VA 22657
tonyraker@yahoo.com / www.graceevfreechurchva.org

7. *Be an obedient Christian.* Let Christ have first place in all the choices of your life.
8. *Learn how to meet temptation.* Temptation is not sin. It is *yielding* that is sin. Let Christ through the Holy Spirit do the fighting for you.
9. *Be a wholesome Christian.* Our lives and appearance should commend the Gospel and make it attractive to others.
10. *Live above your circumstances.* Don't let your circumstances get you down. Learn to live graciously within them, realizing the Lord Himself is aware and with you.

5 Benefits of Holiness

Holiness may seem hard, but the benefits far outweigh anything we might need to "sacrifice." The gain is far greater than the loss of any worldly activity, behavior, or attitude. Usually what it comes down to is simply our desire. Why would we want to live a holy life? The following five benefits are not the only reasons, but they're ones Scripture mentions repeatedly:

1. Holiness fosters intimacy with God, builds spiritual strength and stability (**Psalm 15:1-6**).
2. Holy living makes us useful and effective for God's purposes (**2 Timothy 2:20-26**).
3. Our holy life causes people around us to glorify God (**1 Peter 2:9-12**).
4. Holiness builds peace with God (**2 Peter 3:10-18**).
5. A holy life pleases God and produces "**fruit**" (**Ephesians 5:1-17**).

10 Essential Holiness Questions

Questions to ask when trying to make decisions in areas not specifically commended or condemned in the Bible as you practice your freedom in Christ and submit to God's perfect purpose in your life:

- 1) **Principle of Expedience.** Will it be spiritually profitable. **1 Cor. 6:12: "All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything."** That is, all things that are not specifically addressed in the Bible as being unlawful, are lawful. But, is it profitable – "to my advantage"? Will my doing this enhance my spiritual life? Will it cultivate godliness?
- 2) **Principle of Edification.** Will it build me up? Will it put me on the path to greater spirituality? **1 Cor. 10:23: "All things are lawful, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful, but not all things edify."** Same basic idea as above, but the word here edify means "to build a house." Will it add to my life things that increase my spiritual stability, strength and maturity. **1 Cor. 14:26: "Let all things be done for edification."** It is not enough to just refrain from doing something that would tear you down. We are to build up ourselves and others.
- 3) **The Principle of Excess.** Will it slow me down in the race? Will it hinder me in my Christian walk? **Heb. 12:1-2: "Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."** The grueling, tough life of faith that we are called

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Grace Evangelical Free Church, 718 E. Queen Street, Strasburg, VA 22657

tonyraker@yahoo.com / www.graceevfreechurchva.org

to live in the power of Christ cannot be successful if we are in sin or weighted down, encumbered by things that may be good but are not the best including our use of time, talent and wealth. To run the race of faith will take determination, discipline and perseverance.

- 4) **The Principle of Enslavement.** Will it bring me into bondage? Again, refer to **1 Cor. 6:12**. Never allow anything (desire/material item/engagement) to become my master. A simple test for whether you are being mastered by something: if you cannot easily set it aside for a day or two – then you are probably enslaved to it. Another simple test: if your mind is preoccupied by it, then you are probably enslaved to it. What is supposed to occupy our minds is God and that which is related to Him.
- 5) **The Principle of Equivocation (lie/falsify).** Will it hypocritically cover my sin? Am I doing it in the name of freedom, when in reality I am pandering to my own evil. 1 Peter 2:16: “[**Act**] as **free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but [use it] as bondslaves of God.**” Be honest with yourself: is this really something that profits you spiritually, something that builds you up? Or is it something that hinders you in running the race of faith? Does it enslave you? Does it cloak your evil desire. Look at your motive behind every consideration of life.
- 6) **The Principle of Encroachment** (encroaching on the sovereignty of Christ). Will it violate the Lordship of Christ in my life? Read **Romans 14:2-8**. Is this something I believe the Lord would want or not want? This is a matter of conscience...a conscience in line with God’s Word and His Spirit. You do not want to ever develop the habit of going against your renewed conscience or you are in danger of searing it. Paul said he worked hard to keep a good conscience before God (**Acts. 23:1; 2 Tim. 1:3**). He did not want a seared conscience as those who had fallen from the faith and paid attention to the doctrine of demons and the hypocrisy of liars (**1 Tim. 4:1,2**). If you choose to do something, you must believe that it fits within the will of the Lord for you.
- 7) **The Principle of Example.** Will it help other Christians by its example? **1 Cor. 8:9**: “**But take care lest this liberty of yours somehow becomes a stumbling block to the weak.**” The pattern of your life is setting an example. This is also from the positive standpoint, not just keeping someone from stumbling, but motivating them to Christ likeness (**1 Cor. 11:1**). Our goal in all areas of dealing with one another is described in **Ephesians 4**: it is the building up of the body of Christ. Will my choice help other Christians by example?
- 8) **The Principle of Evangelism.** Will it lead others to Christ? God calls each of us to different tasks and endows us with different gifts, but the goal is the same—the salvation of the lost (**1 Corinthians 12:6–7; Luke 19:10**). He places us in strategic positions for influence, not privilege. As long as we have breath, we can do personal evangelism. As long as we stay surrendered to the Holy Spirit, He will do it through us (**Luke 12:12**).
- 9) **The principle of Emulation.** Will it be consistent with Christ likeness? (**1 John 2:5, 6**) Is the consideration consistent with **Romans 8:29**, confirmed to the image of Christ?
- 10) **The principle of Exaltation.** Will it glorify God? **1 Cor. 10:31**: “**Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.**” Will it exalt God, lift up His holy name, will it honor Him, will it adorn the doctrine of God in my life? Will He be glorified, and honored and praised?