

May 30, 2021

## God's Holy Nation

By Michael Hickox

# Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street  
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## Services

### Sunday

Bible Study	9:30 am
A.M. Worship	10:20 am
P.M. Worship	2:00 pm

### Wednesday

Bible Class	7:00 pm
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**Elders:** Mike Gerber, Travis Hall

**Deacons:** John Frost, Dave Goff,  
Roger Sholders

*Visitors are welcome*

*We offer Bible classes for all ages*

*We also offer in-home Bible studies*

We have Bible lessons on the radio  
(92.9 FM) Sundays from 8:00-8:30 a.m.

**1 Peter 2:9:** *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light:*

The phrases used by the apostle Peter to describe Christians in the above verse indicate that Christians are to be different from the world. The word "**holy**" emphasizes the need for God's people to be set apart from the darkness of the world to glorify Him.

God has long desired His chosen people to be holy. When God delivered the Israelite law to Moses at Mt. Sinai, it was intended to set the Israelites apart from other nations. If they chose to follow God's commands, they would be very unique. This is connected to His desire that Israel of the Old Testament be His holy people.

New Testament Christians make up the "**Israel of God**" (**Gal. 6:16**), and are called to be set apart from "spiritual Gentiles," i.e., those outside Christ's body. Christians make up the church, which is God's holy nation today.

The holiness God demands of Christians (**1 Pet. 1:15-16**) leads to stark contrasts between the world and

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Christ's followers.

For instance, Christians should be different in our very purpose in life. While the world focuses on temporal things, we are to center our lives on God.

As the Holy Spirit through Paul instructed the Corinthian brethren, "**Whether therefore you eat, or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God**" (1 Cor. 10:31). Later, Paul stated that his *aim* was to be well pleasing to God (2 Cor. 5:9). Such an aim is far different from the world's focus.

Our aim to please God should lead to differences in who we are. The world's wisdom teaches that we should seek prestige, possessions, promotions, power, or whatever "makes us happy." Such teaching is centered on a character of pride and self-centeredness.

Yet, Jesus says it is the meek who are blessed by God (Matt. 5:5). Christians are not taught to seek preeminence, but to lower ourselves for the glory of God and benefit of others (cf. Luke 22:24-26).

Having this character will make us different from the majority.

The differences in why we live and who we are should lead to differences in *how* we live. When others are making plans to go to the local bar, Christians may be spending the night praying or studying the Bible with friends or family. The things we do with our time (Eph. 5:16), the way we dress (1 Tim. 2:9), and the way we speak (Eph. 4:29) will all be different from the world if we live as we should.

Just as Jesus was set apart from the world, His followers are to be set apart from the world (cf. John 17:16). There is no reason to be ashamed of these differences. Rather, there is reason to rejoice for the chance to follow in Jesus' steps, and be a light amidst the darkness (Phil. 2:15).

Moreover, there is reason to rejoice for the chance to give glory to God, which is the ultimate aim of those who belong to Him.

May we live holy, upright lives, and thus proclaim the praises of Him who called us "***out of darkness into His marvelous light.***"

## God's Plan for Saving Man

God's Grace	Ephesians 2:8
Christ's Blood	Romans 5:9
The Holy Spirit's Gospel	Romans 1:16
Sinner's Faith	Acts 16:31
Sinner's Repentance	Luke 13:3
Sinner's Confession	Romans 10:10
Sinner's Baptism	1 Peter 3:21
Christian's Work	James 2:24
Christian's Hope	Romans 8:24
Christian's Endurance	Revelation 2:10

## Prayer List

Holly G  
Sandy S  
Cheryl S  
Norma C  
Raymond & Maxine  
Barbara G (Cancer)  
Justice G (Perthes disease)  
Robert C  
Stivers' son-in-law, Don  
Gerry S (Cancer in leg)  
Ken G (Prostate Cancer)  
Dan H / John & Cynde

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## Words to Consider

***“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” – Psalm 133:1***

***“This is the end of the matter. All has been heard. Fear God, and keep His commandments; for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every work into judgment, with every hidden thing, whether it is good, or whether it is evil.” – Ecclesiastes 12:13-14***

## Daily Bible Reading

May 30 – 1 Samuel 22-24; Luke 12:1-31  
May 31 – 1 Samuel 25-27; Luke 12:32-59  
June 1 – 1 Samuel 28-31; Luke 13:1-22  
June 2 – 2 Samuel 1-2; Luke 13:23-35  
June 3 – 2 Samuel 3-5; Luke 14:1-24  
June 4 – 2 Samuel 6-8; Luke 14:25-35  
June 5 – 2 Samuel 9-11; Luke 15

***“[Jesus] answered, ‘It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.’” – Matt. 4:4***

### **Prayer Leaders**

Sunday, May 30, 2021

Bible Study: John  
Worship: Dan D  
Evening: Carlyle

Wednesday, June 2, 2021

Larry

### **Assignments**

Sunday, June 6, 2021

Reading: Dan H  
Announcements: Darrell  
Table: Travis  
Serve: Dave  
Steve

Wednesday, June 9, 2021

Invitation: Mike

### **Clean Building**

Janice (May) / Cynde (June)

### **Prepare Communion**

Janice (May) / Linda (June)

### **Upcoming Reminders**

### **Anniversaries**

May 30 – Larry & Patsy  
June 7 – Michael & Julzy  
June 10 – Jeff & Patty  
June 13 – Douglas & Madison  
June 23 – Mason & Stephanie

### **Birthdays**

June 2 – June  
June 16 – Jenna