



Holy Children

Ian White,
Mission and Ministry Consultant

Aims of this session

What is it for a child to be / become a holy disciple of Jesus?

- To introduce some biblical and theological reflections on 'Holy'
- To invite group discussion and sharing



What is a disciple?



Photo by [Fidel Fernando](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Discipleship

- Discipleship is loving God with heart, soul, mind strength - our whole being shaped into the image of a holy loving dynamic creative God who revealed themselves in human form as Jesus of Nazareth. His life, death and resurrection is the turning point in all history, and all humanity is called to follow Him, and be his disciple.
- Discipleship is being 'Little Jesus' in the world, showing and sharing his love, mercy and holiness to the created world and all the neighbours around us.

What is holiness?



Photo by [chris liu](#) on [Unsplash](#)

God is holy

“Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.” Leviticus 19:2

“In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.”” Isaiah 6:1-3

Hebrew: qadosh קדוש
Definition: sacred

Be holy as God is holy

“Therefore prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed. Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance. Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; for it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”” 1 Peter 1: 13-16

Be holy as God is holy

Paul writes to the Saints

“To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 1:7

“To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 1: 2-3

“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God that is in Corinth, including all the saints throughout Achaia: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 1:1-2

Paul writes to the Saints

“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,
To the saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful in
Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” Ephesians 1: 1-2

“Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all
the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with
the bishops and deacons: Grace to you and peace
from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”
Philippians 1: 1-2

“To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in
Christ in Colossae: Grace to you and peace from
God our Father. Colossians 1:2

Holy saints

Saints = **hagios: ἅγιος** sacred, holy

- Separate
- Set apart by (or for) God, holy, sacred
- Different (unlike) (distinguished from / distinct from)
- Other ("otherness")

New Testament: "likeness of nature with the Lord" because "different from the world."

Holy Spirit - pneuma hagion

Holiness movement, sense that a life given over to God is a life changed

Paul writes to the Church

“Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.” 1 Thessalonians 1:1

“Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” 2 Thessalonians 1:1-2

“.....To the churches of Galatia: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to set us free from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—” Galatians 1:2;6

Holy Church

Church - **Ekklesia**

Danish **Kirke** via Old Norse **Kirkja** from Byzantine Greek **kuriakon**drawn from the word **kuriakos**...meaning 'belonging to the Lord', because **kurios** means Lord.

Kyrie eleison means...Lord have mercy.

- Belonging to the Lord
- People who God employs
- Set apart
- Prepared for God as pure and clean

A Holy Life – a Holy Child?

Dedicated: Samuel.....Hannah's boy in 1 Samuel.
Priest Eli.

“Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. And the Lord took note of Hannah; she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. And the boy Samuel grew up in the presence of the Lord.” 1 Samuel 2:18

A life seen as sacred.....all human life is sacred in some sense.....but this is more.

**What is it for a child to be / become a holy
disciple of Jesus?**

Table conversation; What is it for a child to
be / become a holy disciple of Jesus?



Photo by [krakenimages](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Feedback and sharing

- Key thoughts
- Encouragements
- Challenges
- Theological or ecclesial (church) issues
- Actions to take (personally or by your church?)