

DEEPER LIFE BIBLE CHURCH NL | SUNDAY SERMON | 7 JUNE 2026

“PERFECTING HOLINESS IN THE FEAR OF GOD”

2 Corinthians 7:1

Bible Reading: 2 Corinthians 6:1-18

Holiness is not optional for the believer. It is God’s command, God’s nature reproduced in His children, God’s will for His every child and the condition for fellowship with Him (1 Pet. 1:15,16; Heb. 12:14; 1 Thess. 4:3). God saves us from sin and sanctifies us for Himself. Our main text is Paul’s conclusion to the call of separation in 2 Cor. 6:14-18. God commands His people to come out from worldly defilement and promises, *“I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”* Because these promises come from the Almighty God, they are sure and unchangeable (Num. 23:19; Jos. 21:45; 2 Cor. 1:20). The believer therefore has both a divine motivation and a practical responsibility to pursue holiness.

THE PERSUASIONS FOR PERFECTING HOLINESS: 2 Cor. 7:1; 6:16-18

“Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved...” The pursuit of holiness is driven by the promises, presence, and purpose of God. Paul points believers to what God has promised as the motivation for separation and sanctification. God wants to dwell in us, and walk in us, and be a Father unto us, and wants us to be His children. As God’s children, we must reflect God’s character (1 Pet. 1:15,16; Lev. 11:44,45). Holiness also precedes divine manifestation (Jos. 3:5; Psa. 66:18). God walks among a holy people, commits His power to clean vessels, and hears and answers the prayers of the pure in heart. Holiness goes beyond outward morality. It deals with inward depravity by removing the root and nature of sin (1 Thess. 4:3,4). It is essential for fellowship with God on earth and fitness for heaven hereafter. Therefore, the believer who values intimacy with God will willingly separate from anything that grieves Him. You will not live in deliberate impurity or regard iniquity in your heart. The heavenly city is a holy city and only a holy people shall enter there.

THE PRACTICES FROM PERFECTING HOLINESS: 2 Cor. 7:1

Holiness is personal and not passive. It is perfected in the fear of God. The fear of God is reverent trust. It is not just theoretical knowledge but an active, lived experience that produces practical wisdom (Psa. 111:10; Pro. 8:13). The fear of God makes holiness practical, visible, and consistent. Joseph resisted temptation because he feared God (Gen. 42:18; 39:9). Nehemiah rejected oppression and compromise because he feared God (Neh. 5:9,15). Believers submit to one another in the fear of God (Eph. 5:21).

The fear of God produces practical holiness in every sphere of life. **In Church**, we see your obedience, courtesy, chastity, love, godly speech (Rom. 12:10; Eph. 4:29; 1 Tim. 2:9; Heb. 13:1). **At home**, it is demonstrated through your care, love, humility, respect (Eph. 5:22-33; 4:31; Col. 3:18-21). **At work**, holiness is demonstrated through your faithfulness, integrity (no conspiracy, cheating or falsifying), providing just wages as an employer (Eph. 6:5-9; Col. 3:22,23; Tit. 2:9,10). In your **personal life**, holiness is seen in your pure love without lust, no hatred in the heart against your neighbour, not secretly watching immoral content, no partiality, fervency, faith (Rom. 12:9; 1 Jn. 3:15; Matt. 5:28; Jas. 2:1; Rom. 12:11).

THE PROMOTERS OF PRACTICAL HOLINESS: 2 Corinthians 7:1

There must be deliberate spiritual actions and disciplines for practical holy living. **Separate** from sinful companions, corrupt entertainment, defiling influences and compromising environments (2 Cor. 6:17; 2 Tim. 2:19-21). **Submit** to God’s Word through daily Bible study, meditation and committing God’s word to memory. The Word of God sanctifies, cleanses, and renews the believer (Jn. 17:17; 15:3; Eph. 5:25,26). **Seek** God’s face through regular devotion, a consistent prayer life, regular fasting, worship and dying daily to self (Psa. 27:8; Job 22:26-30). When we get closer to God, worldly attractions lose their grip. **Sanctified** conduct through complete consecration to God and willing submission to the Spirit’s searching and cleansing work (1 Thess. 5:23; Acts 15:9; Eze. 36:25-27).

God’s call to holiness is both a privilege and a necessity (Rom. 12:1,2). The promises of sonship, fellowship, answered prayer, usefulness, and eternal life should compel every believer to pursue holiness wholeheartedly. Therefore, value God’s promises, separate from any defilement, cleanse yourself continually, feed constantly on God’s Word, maintain devotional intimacy and yield fully to God’s sanctifying work.

“If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.” – John 13:17