

No. 3 Why True Christians Need Courage (Symposium)
 -To Remain Holy

[PLEASE NOTE: This talk includes a video]

HOLINESS IS A CHRISTIAN REQUIREMENT (3 min.)

Jehovah expects his worshippers to be holy [Read 1 Peter 1:15, 16]

Note that Jehovah did *not* say we must be as holy as he is; rather, he tells us to be holy *because* he is holy

Although faith in the ransom enables us to have a clean standing before Jehovah, we must strive to maintain clean conduct by

"perfecting holiness" day by day (2Co 7:1; c1 34-35 ¶19)

Holiness indicates separateness, cleanness, a state of being set aside for Jehovah's service, purity in one's personal conduct

Thus, holiness involves more than simply opening a Bible, going to a Kingdom Hall, or participating in the ministry

Rather, it involves doing such things while at the same time

living by Jehovah's exalted moral standards and taking part in pure worship with the right heart attitude (Ro 12:1; kr 117 ¶28)

We must, therefore, avoid behavior or practices that defile our body or diminish our relationship with Jehovah

COURAGE IS NEEDED TO REMAIN HOLY (6 min.)

Courage helps us to be a genuine Christian

Sooner or later, our conscience will oblige us to differ from those around us—colleagues, classmates, neighbors, relatives

Because we live by Christian values, those who do not love Jehovah "are puzzled" and "speak abusively" of us (1Pe 4:4)

Christian youths especially need courage to resist peer pressure

Being different can feel like "the hardest part of being a Christian" (g92 6/8 16 ¶3)

It is natural to want to be accepted by others, but we cannot be enamored of any part of the world (Jas 4:4)

For example, your taste in clothes sends a message about who you are, what you stand for, and what you believe in

Having the courage to dress modestly may not win you popularity

with the world, but it will win you God's approval! (1Ti 2:9, 10)

A Christian may be pressured to date an unbeliever or engage in immorality

Cutting off bad associations calls for courage

Some have weakened their moral defenses by having unnecessary association with non-Witness workmates after working hours

Even during working hours, temptations can arise; resist these firmly! (Heb 13:4; 2Pe 2:14; w06 6/15 29 ¶15)

Have you ever been asked by an employer to lie or to be dishonest?

Solid Christians do not view honesty as optional (Heb 13:18; wp16.1 7 ¶8)

In the following video, notice how a publisher was blessed for maintaining holy conduct

VIDEO (3 min.)

BENEFIT FROM PROVISIONS TO REMAIN HOLY (3 min.)

The Bible encourages us to be responsible for our actions and to develop spiritual qualities [Read 1 Corinthians 16:13, 14]

To "carry on in a manly way," or "be courageous," (ftn.) involves being alert, firm in the faith, mighty, and loving

These principles apply equally to men and women

God's spirit can help us to develop strong faith and fervent love

Seek out guidance to remain holy (Pr 1:5)

Caring parents are a source of instruction

Elders and other mature Christians can offer spiritual advice

Well-chosen friends bring out the best in us and help us to cling to good goals and holy standards

OUR COURAGEOUS STAND TO REMAIN HOLY HONORS JEHOVAH (3 min.)

Living in the time of the end, we are not surprised that the world has become obsessed with things that Jehovah says are unholy

We need to exert ourselves to perform "holy acts of conduct" and to remain "spotless and unblemished" (2Pe 3:11, 14)

If we stand firm for what is holy, that is courageous; if we do so despite fear, that is even more courageous

Each of us can be courageous if we constantly rely on God and remember that Jehovah has strengthened countless others like us (Pr 3:26)

Your courageous stand pleases Jehovah

What a powerful reason to remain holy!

Brother _____ will consider the final part of this symposium, "Why True Christians Need Courage—To Maintain Neutrality"

TO BE COVERED IN 18 MINUTES