

Holiness and Honor  
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Greetings in the Name of Christ the Crucified +

The reading is 1 Thessalonians 4:1-7, and in particular I would like to consider verse 4 which reads, "that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor."

What do you see when you look in the mirror? When you roll out of bed and there's that old familiar mug staring at you, what do you see? Paul would have you remember that in Christ, because you are claimed by Christ, washed and redeemed by Him, you are indeed holy and you indeed have honor.

Holiness and honor are two things that the world tends to ignore or forget. To be holy is to be separated, pulled out of the muck and mire, and set aside for God's use in His kingdom. You are holy - you have been given holy things to do by God - things God has prepared especially for you. Your family, your friends, your work - all of this is a holy gift made especially for you.

And you have honor. You have worth. You have value. Not merely because of what you can do (or not less because you can't do as much as you used to), but you have honor and value and worth because Christ Jesus has died for you. He has said that your life is worth more than His Own.

Whenever you see yourself, you should see holiness and honor given to you by Christ. But to be honest, this can be hard to see. It can be easy to forget the dignity and worth that we have in Christ. And the world tries to tempt us to all sorts of impure and dishonorable stuff, where we forget who we are and what we are worth.

So remember who you are in Christ Jesus. Washed, redeemed, forgiven - blessed with holiness and honor now and eternally. This is who you are. Don't let the world or anyone in it make you forget it.