

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on [thorncreek.church/live](http://thorncreek.church/live))

**Warming up**

1. Is it possible to be perfect under the eyes of God?
  
2. What does holy meant to you?

**Digging Deeper & Application**

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

3. Read Matthew 5:48. Many people find the word, "perfect" to be a scary word. Why do you think?
  
4. Sin has been defined as, "a voluntary transgression of a known law of God." We are certainly born into this world as "sinners" due to our spiritual Grandparents, Adam and Eve. But, we also have the capacity to sin because we have a sinful nature to contend with. Does this definition change your view of your "acts of sin"?
  
5. Jesus uses the word, "perfect" in Matthew 5:48. Perfect means one who has attained to the end (aim) or to the intended goal (telos). It signifies consummate soundness, and includes the idea of being whole. It's often translated as "mature". Does this change your view of what it means to be perfect under the eyes of God?
  
6. One of the conclusions of Matthew 5:48, is we convince ourselves it's NOT possible to be holy or perfect under the eyes of God. It's impossible. Can you think of any dangers with this kind of thinking and how it might influence your passion to live a holy life?
  
7. Do you think God would ever call us to do something that He knew we couldn't achieve?
  
8. What are your thoughts about this quote? "Any concept of grace that makes us feel more comfortable sinning is not biblical grace. God's grace never encourages us to live in sin, on the contrary, it empowers us to say no to sin and yes to truth." - Randy Alcorn

9. One thing becomes clear, God has had a long-standing desire for His people to be holy. This is repeated throughout scripture. Please read the following verses: Gen 17:1; Deut 18:13; and Lev 20:26.
  
10. According to these verses what is God's part and what is OUR part...Lev 11:44; Ez 36:22-28; 1 Pet 1:14-15; Rom 12:1-2; and 2 Cor 7:1.
  
11. Close by reading James 1:5-10; 2:1-2. How does God's grace work with our sin?

**Application**

Below are some of the points shared in the message. Discuss how they apply to your life.

- "Who is he that will open his mouth against being cleansed from all pollution both of flesh and spirit; or against having all the mind that was in Christ, and walking in all things as Christ walked? What man, who calls himself a Christian, has the hardness to object to the devoting, not a part, but all our soul, body, and substance to God?"  
- John Wesley, A Plain Account of Christian Perfection
  
- Pastor Ruben talked about the "Keel" of a sailship. A structural keel is the bottom-most structural member around which the hull of a ship is built. The keel runs along the centerline of the ship, from the bow to the stern. The Keel keeps the boat from capsizing. It helps you weather the storm. It helps you go the right direction.
  
- "Character is like the keel of a sailboat beneath the water line, where nobody sees. The ballast at the bottom of the keel can weigh up to 8,000 pounds. This weight beneath the waterline enables the sailboat to survive storms and rough seas. No matter how badly the sailboat is battered, there is a calm assurance that the sailboat will continue the course."  
Wayne Cordiero PERSONAL QUESTION...How big is your keel?