

Holiness and Community

Description

[RG AUDIO 071922](#)

Hebrews 12:9-17

Over and over in the Bible we are reminded that we are supposed to be a people set apart. In our words and our actions, the way we interact with each other—every aspect of our lives is supposed to be a reflection of the radical kingdom of God. In short, we are called to be holy.

The burden of holiness is put onto the entire congregation. Each of us is tasked with maintaining and searching our own heart, but we are to watch out for each other as well. In Hebrews 12, the author urges everyone to be at peace with each other, meaning not harming nor contributing to the patterns of hate and bitterness that can so easily spring up.

Sometimes, keeping each other accountable can be uncomfortable. It is not pleasant to be disciplined, even if it is for our own good. However, God promises that in setting ourselves apart and holy, He will bless us with —a harvest of righteousness and peace— in the future (v. 11). We only need to help each other to receive the gift.

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Date Created

07/19/2022