

**Sermon – Break the Cycle (Week 5 Wrap Up)****Scripture – Luke 18:9-14, 1 John 1:5-10, 1 Peter 1****Main Message – The Lord says, “Be Holy as I am HOLY”**

Humanity as a whole is not unique, however, each individual is very unique. Every single person is a Shakespearean tragedy. Every single person has the capacity of overcoming the tragedy with the help of Almighty God. This week is the summarization of the 4 prior Break the Cycle messages.

First, maybe the last 4 weeks of this series has you thinking, “Geez, I’m pretty good actually!” I know the kind of person Pastor Steve is talking about, but that is certainly not me. **Read Luke 18:9-14**

Each week I have tried to give you food for thought regarding battles you may have or see in each other. I am no different. I have my battles, my temptations, my frustrations, my desires and occasionally by the grace of God, victory over some. I have sins that have followed me from repeatedly doing the same old thing, getting in a rut of self-acceptance, curses that have followed me from my family line, and great sin of my own making by not being wise in the word until later on in life. I have victory in some areas though. My faults keep me from the sin of self-righteousness. I don’t lust after material gain. I would say my impatience is my biggest challenge. Not impatient in all things, but certainly in some areas. I like to keep things moving forward and not sit in neutral, but God’s timing is telling me that neutral sometimes equals patience.

But do you think you’re doing well as a Christian? Do you see yourself growing closer to God, or are you happy with where you are at? Are you at a place that you feel, I’m good enough. I’m so much better than those who don’t even think about God. That sounds like that Pharisee who was certain he was doing great. According to Jesus, that person is in a dangerous place. Of all the problems, all the sins, all the ruts we can get into, all the curses the might be upon us, there is nothing more dangerous than self-righteousness. If you consider yourself HOLY, I caution you to consider the nature of the world at large and the depth of sin by which we are all impacted. God’s Word tells us more than once to, “Be Holy, As I am Holy” Not striving for that Holiness is what keeps us in the same continual tangled up mess of a life. But you may be thinking, “I am not a tangled up mess.” Then perhaps you don’t see yourself as a sinner yet in desperate need for His Kingship and Lordship. **Read 1 John 1:5-10**

So let me read from **1 Peter** chapter 1 how he demonstrates the Holiness God wants desperately for us.

Grade yourself on your Holiness. It’s not my job nor am I able to judge such things. Here is a mind-bender for you, You also are unable to judge your own heart properly without invoking the name of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit to convict yourself. This is vital and there is no path to Holiness without drawing close to Jesus. There is no way to break the cycle without that commitment in your own heart and only God can bring you to that place of brokenness and recognizing what needs to be done.