

JOHN OWEN

THE IMPORTANCE OF HOLINESS



SOURCES

- ▶ John Piper, “**Reflections on the Life and Thought of John Owen**”
- ▶ Sinclair Ferguson, ***John Owen on the Christian Life***

SOURCES

- ▶ Leland Ryken, *Worldly Saints: The Puritans As They Really Were*
- ▶ Peter Toon, *God's Statesman: The Life and Work of John Owen*

SOURCES

- ▶ John Owen, ***Communion with the Triune God*** (Kelly Kopic)
- ▶ John Owen, ***Overcoming Sin and Temptation*** (Kelly Kopic)



**What immediately comes to your
mind when you hear the term
“Puritans?”**

A.G. Dickens

When you think about Puritanism you must begin by getting rid of the slang term 'puritanism' as applied to Victorian religious hypocrisy. This does not apply to seventeenth-century Puritanism.



**The Puritan movement was its core
a call for the spiritual purification of
the Church.**

Henry VIII

He was the king, the whole king, and nothing but the king, but he wished to be, with regard to the Church of England, the pope, the whole pope, and something more than the pope.

John Owen (1616—1683)

J.I. Packer: For profundity and majesty in exhibiting from Scripture God's ways with sinful mankind there is no one to touch him.

John Owen (1616—1683)

Roger Nicole: **John Owen is the greatest theologian who has ever written in the English language.**

The Life of John Owen

- ▶ Conversion
- ▶ Marriage
- ▶ First Book
- ▶ Becoming a Pastor
- ▶ Addressing Parliament
- ▶ Friendship with John Bunyan

John Bunyan to Charles II

Could I possess the tinker's abilities for preaching, please your majesty, I would gladly relinquish all my learning.

Death: August 24, 1683

I am going to him whom my soul has loved, or rather has loved me with an everlasting love; which is the whole ground of all my consolation.

The Chief Aim of Owen's Life: Holiness

Hebrews 12:14–15: **Strive for... the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.**

The Chief Aim of Owen's Life: Holiness

Tim Keller: I wouldn't be in the ministry—my life would be a shipwreck—if I hadn't read Owen's *On Temptation and Mortification*.

The Chief Aim of Owen's Life: Holiness

Jerry Bridges: John Owen's treatises on *Indwelling in Believers* and *The Mortification of Sin* are, in my opinion, the most helpful writings on personal holiness ever written.

How Did John Owen Pursue Holiness?

- ▶ **Humility**
- ▶ **Obedience**
- ▶ **Communion**

How Did John Owen Pursue Holiness?

1. Owen humbled himself under the mighty hand of God.

John Owen

I am leaving the ship of the Church in a storm, but while the great Pilot is in it the loss of a poor under-rower will be inconsiderable.

2 Corinthians 3:18

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.

How Did John Owen Pursue Holiness?

1. Owen humbled himself under the mighty hand of God.
2. Owen grew in knowledge of God by obeying what he knew already.

John 7:17


*If anyone's will is to do God's will,
he will know whether the teaching
is from God....*

John 14:21

Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.

How Did John Owen Pursue Holiness?

1. Owen humbled himself under the mighty hand of God.
2. Owen grew in knowledge of God by obeying what he knew already.
3. Owen passionately pursued a personal communion with God.



When was the last time you spoke with someone about *your daily experience with God*, not the Bible study that you're in, the sermon you've heard, or the state of the Church, but *your daily experience with God*.

John Owen

Christ is our best friend, and soon will be our only friend. I pray God with all my heart that I may be weary of everything else but conversation and communion with Him.

John Owen

Friendship is most maintained and kept up by visits; and these, the more free and less occasioned by urgent business....

John Owen

I do acknowledge unto you that I have a dry and barren spirit, and I do heartily beg your prayers that the Holy One would, in spite of all my sinful provocations, water me from above.