#1 It's our true nature.

- Ephesians 4:22-24 (ref)
- 2 Corinthians 5:21 / Romans 5:19 (ref)
- Romans 6:22 (ref)
- 1 Peter 2:24 - "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, <u>should live unto righteousness</u>: by whose stripes ye were healed."
- Matthew 5:16 - "Let your light <u>so</u> shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

#2 We love God.

- John 14:15 - "If you love me, keep my commandments".
- Ephesians 5:1 (ref)

#3 We love people. (our neighbor)

- 2 Corinthians 5:14 …love of Christ constrains us…
- Romans 5:5 (ref)
- 1 Corinthians 8:9-13 (ref) encourages us to do nothing that would cause a brother to stumble.
- Romans 13:8-14 (NLT)

#4 Sin enslaves us.

- John 8:34 – "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin"(NLT).
- Romans 6:16 (ref)
- John 10:10 (ref)

#5 Wages and consequences are death and corruption

- Romans 6:23 (ref)
- Galatians 6:7-8 (ref)

#6 Sin hardens our hearts

- Hebrews 3:7-13 (NLT)
- A hard heart leads to poor life choices
- When our hearts are hard we make bad decisions
- "Sin is never smart!" …pleasurable, yes – smart, NO!

- Example – Pharaoh (Exodus 14:4,8)
  - God hardened his heart to bring Himself glory.
  - God had to harden his heart to get him to do such a piece of stupid
  - Lesson for the ages
    Exodus 14:17 God had to harden the Egyptians to get them to follow Pharaoh.

- Example – Sampson and Delilah (Judges 16)
  - "Tell me what will make you weak and vulnerable"
  - "Secret to your strength?"
    - 7 twisted bow strings not dried out.
    - 7 new ropes never been used
    - Braid my hair into 7 locks

  - Results:
    - Blind
    - Bound
    - No more than an oxen treading out corn

TAKE AWAY

- Holiness is part of our true nature (made in God's image).
- Holiness is an expression of our love of God and people.
- Holiness prevents us from the results and consequences of sin.