

# **CHAPTER 1**

# **WHAT IS**

# **ENVIRONMENTAL**

# **HOLINESS?**

The brief, yet complicated, way to summarize the main idea of this book in two words is Environmental Holiness. It's complicated because it combines two words that seemingly have no connection, and one of the words is hardly a part of our everyday language. At least I don't know many young people who go on and on about the subject of "holiness." To be fair, I don't have many friends past the student age who use or understand the word holiness. If you don't have a clue what "Environmental Holiness" means, no problem; you'll find out in the next few pages.

We learned earlier that the ultimate goal of every Christian, like every surfer, is perfection. Perfection is what God does in us to remove sin from our lives and fill our hearts with love, so that everything we do is motivated by love. Well, holiness is the process of God making us perfect.

I also mentioned that when God begins to replace the sin in our lives with love, we start to think and act differently. Our actions change to reflect the change in our hearts. One area in our hearts and lives which God begins to change is how we care for creation.

When I say "Environmental Holiness," it's a simple statement that God calls every Christian to care for creation as a part of the process of being made perfect. If we are searching for perfection, then we must be willing to let God change our thoughts and actions toward the environment. In the process of being made perfect, we start to reflect the perfect image of God.