

1 Peter 1:13-16 A Call to Holiness

¹³ Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ¹⁴ as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, *as* in your ignorance; ¹⁵ but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct, ¹⁶ because it is written, “*Be holy, for I am holy.*”

Peter has spent the vs 1-12 of chapter one describing who we are in Christ – the blessings of our salvation

A) Born again to a Living Hope through.... Dead

B) We belong to God – we belong to another world – we are destined for a glorious inheritance

1) All of which stands as the backdrop for why we can rejoice in suffering

C) V.13 his tone changes – what he writes in these verses is in the imperative sense = meaning it is a RESPONSE

D) The idea being - Because of what God has done for you – because of who you are in Christ –

1) because of your hope of glory

This is to be your rightful response – you are to walk in Holiness

A) Holy is a word that is rarely used outside of the Church –

B) Now a lot of people have the wrong idea about the Word Holy !!

C) Many associate it with some kind of grimness.

1) they think of stuffy- Down and Dower

D) They think of "holy" people as those who look as if they have sucked a Lemon /

1) or have the bit into a rotten apple!!!

But let me give you a simple but good definition of Holy

A) You are set apart for a singular purpose

B) That singular purpose is to glorify God

C) Now Peter doesn't just tell us to be Holy – he tells us how

#1 Realize that Holiness is not just a calling it is an identity. V.14 As obedient children -

A) Literally as the children of obedience – it is a TITLE

B) In other words he is not describing us as children who are obedient –

1) Where obedient would be an adjective

C) He says as The obedient children – noun – title – this is who you are

D) Holiness is not just something you do – but if you are saved it is now who you are –

1) Position in Christ – Declared righteous

You don't obey God in order to be Holy

A) You are Holy – so therefore go and obey God

B) See the difference ? – Live out who you already are

1) Be who you are in Christ instead of who you used to be in the flesh

C) You have been Set apart for a singular purpose

1) See who you are is supposed to affect how you live

No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, - all Christians sin – but if you are really born again – you are not going to keep sinning in that area why?

For God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. 1 John 3:9 ESV

The Person who is born of God can't practice sin or live in sin – why?

A) His seed is in him – reference to the Holy Spirit

B) So he who is born of God – doesn't practice sin – because he has the Holy Spirit in him

1) Because we have been given a new nature.

C) What do you think is the greatest desire of your new nature? – **Holiness** – He is called the Holy Spirit

He is Not called the Loving spirit or the guiding spirit or the cool spirit or the trendy spirit

A)He is the Holy Spirit – his greatest desire is toward holiness

B)He loves holiness and sin grieves him

C)So when you sin it grieves him – he starts whispering to you

1)You start walking in sin and he is whispering to you – **that is not who you are!**

Sometimes we don't listen to his voice of conviction we keep sinning

A)You know what he does then - he seeks to makes us miserable in our sin

B)Living on the fence is horrible - we have too much of Jesus to really enjoy our sin –

1)but we also have too much of our sin to really enjoy the Lord

C)The worst place to be – the Holy Spirit hounds you to pull you back

D)But if you Still don't listen – he disciplines you to get your attention

E)He wants us to be who we are in Christ not who we used to be in our Flesh – Before Christ

How to walk in Holiness?

#1 Realize that Holiness is not just a calling it is an identity.

#2 Refocus in your thoughts – ¹³ Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober

A)Therefore pts back to vs 1-12 Your great salvation – born again to a living Hope that is who you are

B)GIRD UP THE LOINS OF ..MIND

1) **This is a deliberately vivid phrase.**

C)In the east men wore long flowing robes which hindered fast progress or strenuous action.

D)But around their waist they wore a broad leather belt called girdle; -

1)and when they needed to move quickly or to work strenuously

E)they would shorten their long robe by pulling it up within the belt in order to give them freedom of movement.

Peter says Gird up the loins of your mind"

A)simply means, "Pull your thoughts together! Gather your thoughts together unto the Lord

B)Be sober – be full of self-control and not given to extreme reactions

Gather your attitudes and outlooks and place them under JESUS

A)SO that you will be Free in your following after Christ –

B)not encumbered by other things that would distract you from that Pursuit

C)Now if we bring our attitudes and outlooks and place them under Jesus

1)it is going to affect how we respond to others – affect the way we respond in situations

D)It is going to affect what we post on social media

1)everything is going to be put through the filter – is this going to glorify JESUS?

Now just think about that for a moment-Imagine what that would look like.

A)Imagine if Christians all over began to approach life in that way – conversations in that way

B)Post on social media in that way – Imagine the contrast that we would BE to the rest of culture.

C)I have noticed a trend in our country that – I started noticing when Bush Sr was president

1)If the Republican was President he would be constantly critiqued and criticized by the liberal media

D)If a Democrat was president he would be critiqued and criticized by the "conservative" media

1) Scandals at fox news

Back and forth it would go – so much so that the “news programs” were no longer news

A) Critique and Commentary.

Now we watched that pattern reach an all-time high during the Trump Presidency

A) And get uglier than it has ever been

B) For four years we all watched the media groups go back and forth attacking the other side

C) And Then 2020 happened/ Covid-19 happened -

1) I witnessed something I have never seen happen with the church in this country

D) The Church starting fighting with each other – Mask or no mask – open or not open – Racism –

1) It has been UGLY friends

E) Remember what Paul wrote in Galatians 5

¹⁴ For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this: *“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”* that is our mandate friends – the world will know you are my disciples by your love –

There is not a lot of love happening right now

¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

A) For the past 10 months Christians – have been biting and devouring one another

B) And so much of that mentality is happening on social media – in front of the public eye

C) Sad most Christians are cowards because they are not brave enough to do it in person.

1) Pick up the phone

D) Instead they run to a key board or their phone pad and type in these hateful and condemning words

And some Pastors and church leaders are just as guilty.

A) I had a pastor friend who was attacking another pastor friend – his stance on some things

B) I called the guy who was doing the attacking – I said – Have you picked up the phone? –

1) made an appointment to go see him ?

C) I told him -I had similar concerns about this guy

1) So I called him – went and met with him 3 hrs talked things through

I felt I understood much better where he was coming from

A) So I told this Pastor who was doing the attacking on Social media – You need to call him/ go meet with him

B) He said I just can’t do that – I said you’re a coward then – you are wrong posting

1) He never did go and meet with the guy but he quit posting at least

In the last past year the church has been biting and devouring one another on social media platforms like never before

A) And I believe the devil and his demons are sitting back and laughing hysterically

B) They are doing our Job for us – know is going to want to join them.

1) The church has become like everyone else!

C) That my friends is so incredibly sad.

1) It is the opposite of Holiness

D) The Devil is laughing at us and the Holy Spirit is screaming at us

1) That is not WHO YOU ARE!

How do we walk in Holiness?

#1 Realize that Holiness is not just a calling it is an identity.

#2 Refocus in your thoughts- bring your thoughts under Christ

#3 Redirect your former passions - Don't be conformed to former evil desires - ¹⁴ as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance

A) Redirect your former passions

NLT Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then. 1 Peter 1:14b

B) Not just denying my old nature – but I am satisfying the desires of my new nature

C) Paul the Apostle writes Brilliantly of this in Romans 6

Old man has been crucified with Jesus.

A) The Power of the old man has been rendered inactive –

B) We have power now through the Spirit of the Risen Christ living in us – to resist our old nature

1) And Respond to the New nature

C) He puts it this way:

First he speaks of our identity

¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

A) Identity – Dead to Sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus – that is who you are

B) Response

¹² Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.

C) Jesus is King so don't let sin be King

How?

¹³ Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness

A) You start each day – Lord I am presenting my heart to you – my eyes to you – my mouth to you.

B) The more we do that – the more we will respond in way that glorify Christ in the moment.

C) Sure because the battle with our flesh/ Spirit

1) There will still be times where our flesh gets the best of us

D) But when we learn how to daily present ourselves to Jesus – wrong responses decrease – less the norm

God has not saved you to keep you the way that you are.

A) He wants to transform you and make you more like Jesus

B) You have a part to play in that process of sanctification

C) It starts when we

#1 Realize that Holiness is not just a calling it is an identity.

#2 Refocus in your thoughts

#3 Redirect your former passions

D) So How do we walk in Holiness

Why should we seek to walk in Holiness? 2 Reasons

A) 1st Because Jesus is coming back and we want to be ready and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

B) Peter writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit

1) He will use the idea of the soon return of Jesus as a motivation 5 times in this epistle

C) But in every instance – He never mentions this hope as a form of an escape

D) It is not like hang in there – Jesus is coming soon to take you out of here.

1) But rather he speaks as an incentive for right living – holy lives

Ever thought about this: The Holy Spirit is inspiring the apostles to write in that way – Jesus is coming –

A)He wants the Church to live with that mentality

B)And yet the Holy Spirit who is inspiring these writings knows full well that over 2,000 yrs are going to pass – Jesus hasn't come yet.

C)Ever thought about that – I can't even think of something in this life to compare it to –

1)a promise made that you know full well is not going to happen in your life time.

But the reason the HS inspires Peter to speak of the coming of Jesus five times in this epistle to these 1st century Christ followers

A)living under the control of the Roman Empire – Emperor Nero

B)They were encountering persecution and difficulty million times greater than anything modern Christ followers have ever faced.

C)He reminds them of the soon return of Jesus not as a way of escape but has a motivation for Holy Living

1)As a Motivation for faithful service

There is a reward that is coming – live now in that reality!

A)The reason I find that so intriguing is I find so many believers today living in this mentality –

B) this world stinks – Lord get us out of here.

1)Though I understand the sentiment – I don't think it is really that Biblical –

C)We are not called in scripture to be thinking how we can escape the world!

1)Peter reminds us many times in this epistle that this world is not our home – pilgrims/ sojourners

D)But his emphasis is Impact – you are in the world for a purpose – be in it – but not of it

The coming of Jesus is never used in scripture as a motivation for escaping planet earth

A)because it is just getting too hard to live here.

B)Wait Pastor Rob – what about when Jesus says in Luke 21 pray that you would be counted worthy to escape ? What about that?

1)Glad you asked –

C)The context of Luke 21 is the tribulation – that time when God pours out his wrath on a Christ rejecting world

1)That time that is so horrible that the Bible says if those days had not been shortened no flesh would survive

You watch and pray and be on guard that you would be counted worthy to escape that time.

A)A time that is going to be so radical – Jesus said if it wasn't shortened to 7 years – no one would survive.

B)The Context is escaping the tribulation -

1)Jesus never wants us to be thinking about escaping planet earth itself

C)He has left us here for a reason to Make an impact – Shine as lights – be salt and light!

D)In other words it is a motivation for living and serving Jesus now

1)He is coming the world is dying – we need to help lost people get saved

2nd Motivation So the world can see God in us.

A)**V.16 Be holy for I am holy**

B)Why does he say that –the answer is that is when and how the world will see him.

C)See us set apart – living for a singular purpose – Glorify God - And not ourselves

God wants us to stand in stark contrast to the world around us – not in weird way.

A)But in an attractive way.

B)The most Holy Person who has ever walked on planet earth is Jesus himself

C)The Bible tells us that people were drawn to him – loved listening to him

D)He stood in stark contrast to the stuffy self righteous religious leaders of his day

There was an attractiveness to Jesus

A)But People knew full well what he was about and what he stood for

B)As we remember our identity – who we are in Jesus

1)Refocus our thoughts / redirect our passions

C)Maybe our lives can have the same affect - Amen