

Studies in 1 Peter - Discussion Guide for Community Groups

Session 3: Be Holy (1 Peter 1:13-16)

Background

When many of us hear the word “holy” as applied to Christians, we automatically think of trying to be good. I think that most of us understand that we do not have the capacity to be good as God is good; so, what does it mean to be holy?

The golden vessels in Solomon’s Temple were considered holy. They were not considered holy because they were “good.” They were considered holy because they had been set aside and consecrated for the temple rituals. Perhaps a better understanding of “being holy” would be a view of seeing ourselves as set aside for the purposes of God. This would align with our calling as High Priests. (Refer to 1 Peter 2:9) 1 Peter 2:9 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God’s OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Bible Text: 1 Peter 1:13-16 NKJV

[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.”

Thoughts concerning holiness from the Preacher’s Commentary:

Holiness is a subject often avoided by even Christian people. For some reason, it is very uncomfortable for us to talk about being holy. We seem to have little trouble in ascribing holiness to God as we sing, “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty” as one of our hymns of worship.

And yet when we make the transition to speak about the holiness of our lives, we often visualize the caricature of what none of us wants to be—a person who is “holier-than-thou!” Jesus refuted that kind of lifestyle as it was demonstrated by the scribes and the Pharisees.

Instead, God calls us to the life of authentic holiness. Charles Haddon Spurgeon said that “holiness is the architectural plan upon which God buildeth up His living temple.” That is a graphic summation of the teaching of Peter on this important subject of holiness.

Read Verse 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...

- “Gird up the loins of your mind,” means to prepare your mind. Too often we hear Biblical truth, but do not consider how those truths apply to our lives. Preparing our mind is the first step in moving past being a hearer of God’s Word only.
- What does it mean to rest our hope fully upon the grace of God? How did a revelation of Jesus Christ bring us into a place of grace?
- How would you define the idea of grace?

Read Verse 14: ...as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance...

- What are some of the advantages of being an obedient child? What are some of the consequences of walking in disobedience?
- Does sin enhance or enrich the lives of those who give in to temptation?

Read Verses 15 & 16: ...but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”

- How would you describe the holiness of God? (Refer to James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning)
- What are some of the advantages of conforming our conduct to be more Godly? (Who receives the benefit or blessing by living right?)

Wrap-up: *1 John 1:7 NKJV But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.* The Bible is full of examples of people who either obeyed God or disobeyed Him. The results of their choices give us an accurate understanding of why it is fully to our benefit to walk in obedience.

God has not called us to be perfect, because perfection is unattainable. However, He has called us to be “holy” or set aside for His purposes.