"A GODLY HOLINESS"

I Peter 1:14-16
10-10-2021

INTRODUCTION:

***What does a holy Christian look like?**

I. ***A Holy Christian is. . .***
NOT LIKE WHAT HE ONCE WAS (v. 14
(You should not be a slave to your old past)

II. ***A Holy Christian is. . .***
LIKE HIS HEAVENLY FATHER (v. 15-16)
(You should be set apart like your new Father)

A. The PATTERN of Godly holiness *is God* (v. 15a)

B. The SCOPE of Godly holiness *is every area of our life* (v. 15b)

C. The IMPERATIVE of Godly holiness *is anchored in the Scriptures* (v. 16)

"A GODLY HOLINESS"

I Peter 1:14-16

10-10-2021

INTRODUCTION:

***What does a holy Christian look like?**

I. ***A Holy Christian is. . .***

_____ **(v. 14)**

(You should not be a slave to your old past)

II. ***A Holy Christian is. . .***

_____ **(v. 15-16)**

(You should be set apart like your new Father)

A. The _____ of Godly holiness *is* _____ (v. 15a)

B. The _____ of Godly holiness *is* _____ _____ (v. 15b)

C. The _____ of Godly holiness *is anchored in the* _____ _____ (v. 16)

"A GODLY HOLINESS"

I Peter 1:14-16
10-10-2021

INTRODUCTION: Read verses 14-17 (Key verse: v. 16 "I am Holy")

See: Isaiah 6:1-f

God is called the "Holy One" (Hos.11:9) and the "Holy One of Israel" (Is.41:14,16,20)

Holiness is an attribute that God has to an infinite degree above and beyond anything or anyone in creation.

"*There is none holy as the LORD"* (I Sam.2:2)
"Who shall not fear Thee, O Lord, and glorify Thy name? for Thou only art holy" (Rev.15:4)

"Holy" = (Hebrew = qadosh; Greek = hagios) The basic idea of the word is separate-ness or apart-ness. (Example: The Bible is often called the "Holy Bible" because it is a "book" that is "set apart" from all others.

Note: The words "sanctify" and "saint" come from the same Hebrew & Greek root words and mean "set apart" or "set apart one"

God being HOLY is "set apart" from everything that is common or unclean; To profane God is to strike against His Holiness.

God's holiness is manifest in two ways:

1) **Majestic <u>Transcendence</u>** - God is set apart from all that is created (Is. 57:15)

2) **Moral <u>Purity</u>** - God is set apart from all that is unclean (Hab.1:13; I Peter 1:13-16)

"Holiness," as defined as "set apart," is noted by many theologians as the **"fundamental attribute"** of God (the foundational attribute of God) It is the attribute of attributes.

All of God's attributes are equal, but all are qualified (or conditioned) by His holiness.

EX: God is <u>set apart from and above</u> all beings in creation in His love, mercy, truth, righteousness, faithfulness, knowledge, wisdom, sovereignty, etc.

God can't be loving . . . apart from His holiness.

God's holiness qualifies every other attribute He possesses.

"His love is *holy* love...His justice is *holy* justice...His wisdom is *holy* wisdom...His arm of power is a "*holy* arm" (Ps.98:1)...His promise is a "*holy* promise" (Ps.105:42)...His name is a *holy* name (Psalm 103:1).

Everything about God is HOLY
- His Attributes
- His Name (reputation) (Ps.99:3; 111:9; Ezek.36:20-22)
- His Works (Ps.145:17)
- His Glory (Light) (Exod. 15:11; Is.6:3; I John 1:5-7)
- His Spirit (Ps.51:11; Is.63:10)

Everything belonging to God is HOLY
- His Holy Nation (Exod.19:6)
- His Holy Place (the Temple) (Ps.11:4; 65:4)
- His Holy People (Dt.7:6; 14:2)
- His Holy City (Jerusalem) (Ps.2:6; Is.52:1; 66:20)
- His Holy Camp (Dt.23:14)
- His Holy Levites (II Chron.35:3)
- His Holy Ark (II Chron.35:3)
- His Holy Days (Lev.23; Is.58:13)
- His Holy Promise (Ps.105:42; Lk.1:72)
- His Holy Scriptures (Rom.1:2)
- His Holy Prophets (Luke 1:70)

Everywhere God is HOLY
- "Holy Ground" (Ex.3:5; Josh.5:15)
- "Holy Habitation" (Deut.26:15)
- "The Throne of His Holiness" (Ps.47:8)

What does a holy Christian look like?

I. A Holy Christian is. . .
NOT LIKE WHAT HE ONCE WAS (v. 14
(You should not be a slave to your old past)

"Not fashioning" **-** not conforming, not putting yourself into your old molds; not allowing yourself to go back into the old ruts; the old routines, the old habits.

"Yourselves" **-** We can't blame anyone but ourselves for slipping back into our old ways!

"Former" **-** For the believer, *"if any man be in Christ, He is a new creation; old things are passed away, behold all things are become new"* (II Cor. 5:17)

Note: *"Such were some of you"* (I Cor. 6:9ff)

"Lusts" **-** appetites; lit. hot desires, passionate longings, covetous wants.

Beware: If you were lazy, covetous, sexually immoral, materialistic, etc. before salvation, there is a tendency to slip back into these old lusts.

"Be not conformed to this world" **(**See: Rom. 12:2)

"Be not conformed" - stop allowing yourselves to be put into a mold or form (present, passive imperative).

Evidently, some of the Roman Christians were being influenced by the pagan Roman society, hence the present imperative calls for a stopping of a lifestyle already in progress.
"Conformed" - cookie cutter or mold

"This world" - lit. this "age" (aion) in contrast to the coming one.

This age is called an "evil age." (I Cor. 2:6, 8; Gal. 1:4)

God is calling on us to not allow ourselves to be cloned into the spiritual and moral characteristics of the times in which we live.

Whether you realize it or not, the world (instigated by spiritual wickedness & demonic forces) is specifically trying to mold (structure) your mind (your way of thinking) - via the media (TV, radio, movies, magazines, books, etc.)

Don't be deceived into thinking that you have to match the world's fashions, thinking, planning, speaking, etc.

We are not to be like the world - READ Eph. 4:17-19

Love not the world (kosmos) - I John 2:15-17

Being salt and light (Mt. 5:13-16), we are to be distinct from the world.

Don't be like a chameleon, which takes its color from its surroundings.

Believers must learn to swim against the tide (drift) of this age.

We must be willing to cut across the grain of this contemporary world-view. Even if it means standing alone.

"Ignorance" - to be without knowledge.

An unsaved person:

1) Does not always know <u>what</u> is <u>right</u> from what is <u>wrong</u>.

2) Does not know <u>how</u> to <u>gain victory</u> over enslaving lusts.

3) Does not know an adequate reason as to <u>why</u> he should escape enslaving lusts.

The *"Ignorance"* is mainly referring to an ignorance of <u>God</u>.
--Ignorant of His holy standards
--Ignorant of His motivating grace (which comes via His salvation)

II. A Holy Christian is. . .
LIKE HIS HEAVENLY FATHER (v. 15-16)
(You should be <u>set apart</u> like your <u>new Father</u>)

A. The <u>PATTERN</u> of Godly holiness *is God* (v. 15a)
"as (v. 14) . . . as (v. 15)" - Our pattern for holiness is <u>as</u> (like) our Heavenly Father.

V. 14 - ***"Obedient" -*** to listen under; to submissively attend to what God tells you; to hear with an intention to heed.

"Children" - (*tekna)* children who have been begotten or given birth. The emphasis is son the fact of birth; in this case, the new birth via our Heavenly Father (Jn. 1:12).

Peter's idea is: "An obedient <u>born again children</u> (of God), take after Him and <u>not</u> your former father the Devil (Jn. 8:44).

V. 14 - The point is this: You are children of God! Act like it! You are adopted into a new family, don't live like you used to.

(Note: the comparison and contrast between Positional Holiness and the expectant Practical Holiness)

"Called" - To invite or summon someone unto oneself.

The idea is: God called and we responded to the invitation (due to His Spirit's prodding), and we are now children of God.

We have been called *"out of darkness into His marvelous light"* (I Peter 2:9). "The argument here is logical and simple. Children inherit the nature of their parents. God is holy; therefore, as His children, we should live holy lives. We are *"partakers of the divine nature"* (II Pet. 1:4)." (Wiersbe, p. 396)

"Like Father, like son" should be the pattern the world sees in us.

They should be able to see what our Heavenly Father is like by seeing a visual illustration in our lives.

B. The SCOPE of Godly holiness *is every area of our life* (v. 15b)

"Be ye holy" – The word translated "be" is ginomai – meaning to decisively begin now to be holy; Become holy starting now!

"In all manner of conversation" - In all areas of conduct; in each and every activity in life. There is no distinction between the secular and the sacred. "All ground is holy ground."

Every facet of our daily life should manifest a unique holiness:

1. Be holy in your dealings with your family
2. Be holy in the work you do for employment
3. Be holy in your friendships and associations
4. Be holy in your thought life
5. Be holy in your speech
6. Be holy in your actions (Mannerisms and behavior)
7. Be holy in your recreation, entertainment and amusements
   (TV, radio, movies, magazines)
   If you feel "dirty" after participating, you should not have done it)
8. Be holy in the places you go

C. The IMPERATIVE of Godly holiness *is anchored in the Scriptures* (v. 16)

"It is written" - perfect tense - It has been written and still is; It was written and it stands written. Peter's use here of the Old Testament shows the O.T. to be sacred and authoritative.

The times may have changed, but God's will for us to be holy has not changed.

Like the rock of gibraltar, this command to be holy has inalterably stood firm even into the unholy 90's.

The fact that Peter bases his point on the Old Testament shows us that the Old Testament and yes, aspects of the Old Testament moral law provide authoritative principles to live by!

When the Bible says we are not under the Law it means:

1) We are not under the civil and ceremonial aspects of the Old Covenant which Christ abolished in His death!

2) We are not under the curse of the Law (Gal. 3:13)

This quotation (from Lev. 11:44-45) literally says in the Hebrew: *"You will be holy, because I am holy"*

The Hebrew makes its strongest imperatives using the future tense.

SEE: Leviticus 11:44-45

The word "Holy" occurs over 85 times in the book of Leviticus alone!

"For I am holy" – God expects our conformity to His character.

All aspects of the Mosaic Law manifest God's Holy Standards.

God's civil, ceremonial, & moral Laws demonstrate His Holiness.

His hatred for sin; His demands for moral purity; and His perfect standards for worship, service & life reflect His holiness.

Anything that pollutes, defiles, or profanes is forbidden.

God's swift judgment of many who profaned His holy standards is a sobering reminder that HE IS HOLY.

God's swift judgement of many who profaned His holy standards is a sobering reminder that HE IS HOLY

Examples:

Achan who stole that which was to be set apart for God (Josh. 7:12-14) Nadab & Abihu who offered strange fire to God (not what He prescribed) (Lev.9:23 -10:3);

Uzzah who touched the Ark of the Covenant (II Sam. 6:6-7);

Moses who struck the rock (Num.20:11,12);

Belshazzar who mocked God by praising idols and drinking alcohol out of the holy temple vessels (Dan.5)

Ananias & Saphira who lied to God (Acts 5)

Conclusion: **verse 17**

"If ye call on the Father" - Another way of saying: "If you are born again and God is your Father upon whom you depend"

NASV - *"If you address as Father"*

If God is your Father, live like He is your Father.

Our *"Father"* in Heaven is holy (Jn. 17:11) and righteous (Jn. 17:25).

Children often do things they would not normally do when their Father is not around - but our Father is constantly looking and evaluating our lives. This should provoke a healthy fear.

A Father of an obedient son will always be feared.

We ought to love our Heavenly Father enough that we fear to displease Him.

"Without respect of persons"- without favoritism, without partiality. God has no "pets," no one that can "con" or "buy Him off."

You will not be treated with preferential treatment.

God will accept no bribes (Deut. 10:17 - *"For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward."*)

"Judgeth" - to evaluate, scrutinize, and examine something or someone.

Just as a good father judges his children impartially (fairly), so God will (and -is- - present tense) judging His children impartially.

"Your sojourning" - to have a temporary residence alongside. To temporarily stay without citizen rights. Our life on this earth is a "brief stay"; our roots should not be too deep because we are only sojourners here; we are foreigners; pilgrims in a strange land; "aliens" from another world - a heavenly one.

This world is not our final portion, it is our passage-way. As the hymnwriter said: "This world is not my home, I'm just a passin through. . ."
People do not live in a fear of God who assume that their life is out from the control of God (they don't realize that God could snuff out their light tonight). They think in their heart that death is not even possibly on the immediate horizon. They forget how fragile life really is! How uncertain our days really are!

The imperative of verses 17-21 is this: ***"Pass the time. . . in fear"*** (conduct your life with a serious reverence for God; live with a deep respect for God)

God's Children should have a healthy fear of their Father.

Eccl. 12:13 - *"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."*

Deut. 5:29 - *"O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!*"

Job 28:28 - *"And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding."*

Because God is HOLY:

1) You can't <u>be saved</u> on your own terms (God accepts nothing but the sacrifice of His dear Son (Heb.9:22; Acts 4:12)

2) You can't <u>pray</u> on your own terms

3) You can't <u>worship</u> on your own terms (Lev.10:3; Ps.99:5)

4) ou can't <u>serve</u> on your own terms (Psalm 2:11)

5) You can't <u>please God</u> on your own terms (Heb.11:6; I Sam.15:17,22,23)

6) You can't <u>give yourself to God</u> on your own terms (Rom.12:1,2)

As a general guide as to whether or not a practice would match God's Standard, ask yourself the question: "Is it HOLY?"

It should be our daily prayer:

"Lord, set me apart from anything that is unclean in your sight (I Thess.5:23) so that I may please you and serve you acceptably"(II Tim.2:21)