

Holy Living, Part 2

I Peter 1:17-21

March 30, 2008

Summary: Life is short, live holy! The apostle Peter makes it clear that the call to a living hope is a call to holy living. His case: the character of God demands it, and the cost of the precious, innocent blood of Jesus on our behalf empowers it. In so doing we demonstrate that we are transformed from the futility of living for ourselves to the highest and greatest purpose of bringing glory and honor to God.

1. A. For the sake of clarity, if somebody were to ask you what holiness is, how would you define it? What exactly does “holy” mean, and based upon what?
Leviticus 10:3, 20:26, Titus 2:13-14, I John 1:5, Revelation 4:8
- B. Explain from the above Scriptures what Christians are separated **from**, and what they are set apart **for**.
- C. It has been said that even though we fall short, and may not even understand it all that clearly, **longing for holiness** is a mark of authenticity in the heart of every Christian. What about you; is that the general direction of your life? Is that not the whole purpose of salvation in the first place?
Matthew 4:17, II Corinthians 5:15, 6:17-7:1
2. A. Let’s consider this further by examining the first reason that Peter gives for holy living, namely the character of God. What characteristics about God do we observe from 1Peter 1:14-17?
- B. God is identified as “*the Holy One*.” He is the “*One who called you*.” Here we have another great “*I AM*” statement. We call Him *our “Father.”* What is God impartial about and why does that result in a justified fear toward Him?
Deuteronomy 32:39, Psalm 89:32, Isaiah 46:9-10, Matthew 23:32-33, John 8:24, Hebrews 10:30-31
- C. God is Holy. He is Sovereign and He is Judge; that is a sobering and fearsome combination! We don’t make the rules; He does. But man has been so busy raising himself up and bringing God down, that even the church barely knows the difference. Why is there so little holiness among Christians today? **A steadfast and relentless commitment to personal holiness; why so little? What’s missing?**
John 14:15, Romans 12:1-2
3. A. The second justification for personal holiness given by Peter is also huge. It is because of the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. What characteristics of this can you find in 1 Peter 1:18-19?
- B. Why is the innocent blood of Jesus so precious, and what does it accomplish for us? More important, what does it accomplish for God, the Holy One?
Psalm 49:7-8, Isaiah 53:4-12, Romans 3:23-26, 5:9, II Corinthians 5:21, Colossians 1:20-22
- C. Why was the Father “pleased to crush Him?” Why did He “see it and be satisfied?” Because the shed blood of Jesus, as judgment for our sins, met the justice of that holy God.

And for us; He bought and paid for us with the cost of His own blood. We think we have rights; but we are not our own. And “*He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*” Can you honestly say that your faith and hope are in God, to the extent that you no longer seek the futility of living for yourself?

I Corinthians 6:18-20, II Timothy 2:22, I Peter 1:20-21