

BE HOLY

We're about to enter "holy" ground, so, as the story in Exodus 3, or Acts 7, says of Moses, maybe we should take our shoes off, but then again, my toes are a bit sore from being stepped on as I've studied this passage, so maybe I should recommend work boots, ones with a steel toe!

Since we're asking the Lord to do a work in our hearts, neither really matter, as shoes aren't the issue, are they? If your heart is ready, let's approach this holy ground.

Read today's text: 1 Peter 1:14-16

"Holy." "Be Holy," God said. Not only are we to "be holy" but, He says, "be holy as I am holy." Seems a very tall order, but as we'll see, God thinks it's very possible for us to do so.

What do you think the word "holy" means?

When you think of someone who is holy, what does that look like to you?

I realize those answers can be quite varying, depending on how you were raised. Words can conjure images sometimes that we never take the time to think about their validity.

The word Holy is the word, *hagios* and it simply means - *set apart unto service*.

1 Peter 1 - Week 2, Day 3

We saw yesterday that because of our salvation and the hope to come, we are to prepare our minds for action, keep sober in spirit, and fix our hope completely on the grace to come. And then, Peter continues in v. 14, that we are to live "As obedient children..."

In week one we saw that believers are "born again to a living hope" (1:3) If you have accepted Christ's salvation, you have been "born again." No longer are you a child of the father of this world. You have a new Father, and He is nothing like the last. You have exchanged the father of lies for the Father of all truth. A heavenly Father that loves us with a self-sacrificial love, that keeps on loving regardless of our response to Him. Who always does what is to our benefit. One whose grace is sufficient for every need. One who protects our salvation until the revelation of Christ. Our Father is loving, just, unchanging, all knowing, all powerful, ever present, perfectly righteous and holy. He is the King of kings, and Lord of lords. He is so far above all others that they aren't even in sight compared to Him, in fact, none exist. There is no one like our God. Did I mention He's loving? Sometimes we need that extra reminder. He is patient, kind, generous, faithful. That's our Father.

Peter says, live like you belong to Him!

What does Matthew 5:16 say about how we should live?

And what is the result?

1 Peter 1 - Week 2, Day 3

When confronted by the Pharisees about the Law and the greatest commandment, Jesus replied with these words. **Look up Matthew 22:37 and fill in the blanks:**

"You shall _____ the Lord _____ God with _____ your _____, with _____ your _____ and with _____ your _____ .

ALL of it. That's how we are to live.

How are you doing with each of those areas?

I'm convinced that the more we know who our Father is, the more we will reflect His character, as we saw, "from glory to glory" (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Look at Romans 12:1-2

That "renewing of the mind" takes place as we are in God's word. Replacing the lies of this world with the truth in God's word, learning who He is, and who we are as His child. Life will be different as we begin to learn of Christ's character and live it out. Oh, it doesn't happen all at once, and sometimes it seems its two steps forward and three steps back, but as we surrender our will to His, He changes us from the inside out.

The phrase, "As obedient children," means, *in the same manner and lifestyle of someone who is obedient* we are not to be conformed to our previous life. When we, as new creatures, live according to our old nature, it's as if we are disguising our self outwardly to hide what we are inwardly. Those old lusts don't belong to us anymore, we've been made new! We're acting differently than who we truly are, in Christ.

1 Peter 1 - Week 2, Day 3

We talked a little the other day about our "position" in Christ, and then, there is our "experience" of living life in Him, two different things. Our life choices don't always measure to the stature of the fullness of Christ, because we don't allow His Spirit to make our choices for us every moment, but we should, and that is the goal. The good news of grace is that at salvation we are placed INTO Christ. When the Father looks at us, He sees His Son, completely righteous before Him. Having been sealed by the Holy Spirit into Christ, we await the day that Peter keeps reminding the "diaspora" about, that day when their salvation will be fulfilled. Oh glorious day! Finally, our "experience" will finally match our "position," for we will take on His perfection for all eternity, as will they.

The problem comes now, as we try to align our experience of living this new life but we do it according to the standard of the old world, and the two do not match up. That life was "former" Peter says. And the only hold those "lusts" have on us now, are whatever hold we allow them! They were lusts we once followed in our ignorance, but now we know, we don't have to cave to them anymore.

Read what Dr. Welch says about this word, ignorance in The Epistle of 1 Peter:

"Ignorant - (agonia) = This word is to be distinguished from the Greek word "agnoema" which refers to unwitting ignorance (not knowing because you haven't been exposed). The use of the feminine gender here helps us understand that this is a willful act of ignorance. Unfortunately, a lot of people choose to remain ignorant of the things of God. In Romans 10:3 Paul indicates the Jews were willfully ignorant of the knowledge of God's righteousness. It wasn't because they had not heard - it was because they chose to ignore the gospel of grace."

1 Peter 1 - Week 2, Day 3

Regarding these lusts: Each of us were born with a lust pattern. Yours will fall under one of the three categories listed in 1 John 2:16. Satan and the other fallen angels have been watching and studying you and they know exactly which area to tempt you in, and what bait to use. In James 1:13-14 we see we bait ourselves! It's our own desires that bait us. We follow after our own enticement forgetting the precious cost of our salvation, and the price of the new life we have in Him. Don't be ignorant, you do NOT have to succumb to temptation.

Our gracious Father has given us His Spirit to live in us, and we no longer have to submit to those old lusts. Peter says, don't willfully subject yourself to those former things, instead submit to God in your behavior. Be set apart for service to Him. "Like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior." Why? Because you belong to Him and He is holy!

Close your time of study this morning by reading Colossians 3:1-17.

Make notes of those areas that you'd ask God to help you conform to His character:

Then remember how faithful He is to accomplish it, as we submit to His Spirit within us.

1 Peter 1 - Week 2, Day 3

Review:

- We are to be "Holy" (1 Peter 1:14-16)
- We have been born again and have a new Father (1 Peter 1:3)
- Live like Him (Matthew 5:16; Matthew 22:37)
- Renew our minds (Romans 12:1-2)
- As obedient Children (1 Peter 1:14)
- Don't live ignorant (1 John 2:16; James 1:13-14)
- How to live (Colossians 3:1-17)