

Call To Worship

*"O Lord, who shall sojourn in your tent? Who shall dwell on your holy hill? He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart; who do not slander with his tongue and does no evil to his neighbor, nor takes up a reproach against his friend; in whose eyes a vile person is despised, but who honors those who fear the Lord; who swears to his own hurt and does not change; who does not put out his money at interest and does not take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved."
(Psalm 15:1-5)*

1 Peter 1:13-16

Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

The Meaning of Holiness

→ What is your view of holiness? What do you think about when considering holiness?

→ For many Christians, one or several thoughts may first come to mind:

1. *Holiness is rooted in academia; ;*
2. *Holiness is rooted in performance;*
3. *Holiness is rooted in self righteousness;*
4. *Holiness is rooted in intimidation and discouragement;*
5. *Holiness is rooted in fear*

1.) The Holiness of God and the Pursuit of Holiness

→ The Bible teaches us that God is holy; it's intimidating because we do not see ourselves as holy because we still struggle with sin; doing the things we shouldn't or the things we ought to do, we don't;

→ We must understand two things:

1.) Apart from God in Christ, we can never be holy. In fact, it is our impurity that keeps us from seeing God and the problem is not with our eyes, but our hearts;

2.) However, the command to holiness is rooted in the grace of God's mercy toward sinners;

- The Father elects and pursues;
- The Son was sent and sacrificed;
- The Spirit renews and seals;

→ The command to "be holy" is a command to exist as a result of who you are in Christ.

The Motivation of Holiness

→ Peter provides the motivation behind holiness with a positive and a negative;

1.) The Positive

→ Peter addresses Christians as children of God; holiness is not a badge you earn, but a status you are given by God on behalf of the work and sacrifice of another;

- *"...the glory of children is their fathers." (Proverbs 17:6b)*

2.) The Negative

→ Because we belong to God, we do not conform to who we used to be or do; we have been transformed according to His mercy and work;

- *"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:2)*

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→ The result of holiness as God's children is godliness

- *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control; against such things there is no law." (Galatians 5:22)*

The Means of Holiness

1.) Preparing Our Minds for Action;

→ The pursuit of holiness is a call to both think and act;

→ Holiness exposes the condition of our hearts when we look to who God is;

2.) Sober-Minded;

→ The pursuit of holiness involves discipline in the word of God and self-control;

3.) Setting Our Hope on Grace

→ We have been born into a living hope; certain assurance;

→ While your circumstances may not change, your heart and mind do because your hope is set on the one who won't change, forsake, or fail you.

Benediction

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." (1 Peter 2:9-10)