

THEREFORE, BE HOLY

1 Peter 1.13-16

Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy.' 1 Peter 1.13-16

The word *therefore* is to link what is gone with what is coming. Almost invariably in Scripture you will find that "what is gone" is a doctrinal statement and "what is coming" is a practical application. In the early part of the Epistle the Apostle Peter has been outlining the Christian message of salvation, but now he is concerned about the practical application of this message.

The unequivocal statement of the apostle is that believers are to "be holy." The whole subject of holiness is one fraught with difficulty, for people both inside and outside the church. However, Scripture does say, "Be holy, because I am holy." So notwithstanding the difficulties, the confusion, the considerable reticence on the part of many of God's people we must try to deal with this subject of "being holy."

What Does the Word "Holy" Mean?

The original meaning of the ancient biblical word translated *holy* is "to be separated" or "to be cut off," and, accordingly, "to be different" and "to be distinct."

And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done. Genesis 2.3

Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them 'Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.' Leviticus 19.2

Why is Holiness Something to be Desired?

What are the factors that would motivate towards holiness? There are five that I can identify in this passage.

- *The first one is the character of God.*
- *The second thing that motivates us toward holiness is the call of God.*
- *The third factor in holiness is God's command.*
- *The fourth factor is the consistency of God.*
- *Lastly, we need to be holy because it is the choice of God.*

How is Holiness Developed in Our Lives?

The divine ingredient of holiness is the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

The human ingredient is where Peter places his attention.

- *The first of the human ingredients is a well ordered mind.*
- *The second human ingredient is a well-disciplined life.*
- *A well-defined goal is the third human ingredient in holiness.*
- *The fourth human ingredient is a well-established conversion.*

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