

Rooted: Core Truths

Week 6: Holiness and Daily Conduct -- 1 Peter 1:13–21

Say the word “holy” out loud and watch what happens in people’s minds. For some it conjures stained glass and hushed voices, something distant and a little cold. For others it brings up the image of a joyless person, all rules and raised eyebrows, the sort who has forgotten how to smile. For many it simply feels unreachable, a standard for saints and missionaries and people far better than ourselves. So when Peter writes, “be holy in all your conduct,” a lot of us flinch a little, as though he has handed us a bar we can never clear. But that is not at all how Peter means it. He frames holiness not as a cold standard but as a family resemblance. You have a Father who is holy, he says, so as His children, look like Him.

Watch how Peter builds it. He tells these scattered, pressured believers to get their minds ready for action, to stay clear-headed, and to set their hope fully on the grace coming to them when Jesus is revealed. Then, as obedient children, they are not to slide back into the cravings that ran their lives before they knew Christ. Instead, because the One who called them is holy, they are to be holy too, in everything they do. They are to live their days in reverent awe of the Father who judges each person’s deeds without favoritism. And then Peter gives the deepest reason of all: they were ransomed out of an empty way of life, not with silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, the spotless Lamb. Holiness, for Peter, is the natural shape of a life that has been bought at that price.

This protects us from two opposite mistakes that wreck the Christian life. One is legalism, treating holy living as a way to earn God’s acceptance, which leaves us either proud or exhausted. The other is license, treating God’s grace as permission to live however we please, which treats the blood of Christ as cheap. Peter walks the better road between them. We are not holy in order to be loved; we are loved, ransomed, made God’s children, and therefore we live holy lives, out of gratitude and reverence and a desire to resemble our Father. Grace does not lower the call to holiness. It funds it.

That is where this week takes us, into the everyday business of how we actually live, talk, think, spend, and treat people, all of it lit up by the price that was paid for us. Read these verses slowly. Let Peter pull holiness down out of the stained glass and into your Monday, and let the precious blood of Christ become the reason you long to be like your Father.

Group Discussion: The call to “be holy” strikes many people as either impossible, joyless, or old-fashioned. Why do you think holiness has such a bad reputation, even among believers? How does it change the picture to hear Peter ground holiness not in rule-keeping to earn God’s favor, but in being children who resemble a holy Father and who have been ransomed by the blood of Christ?

Personal Reflection: Think honestly about your daily conduct, the ordinary stuff of your words, habits, screen time, spending, and the way you treat people when no one important is watching. Where is there a gap between the holiness you profess on Sunday and the way you actually live during the week? What is one area where you sense God calling you to look more like your Father?

Read 1 Peter 1:13–21

Study Questions

1. Peter writes, “as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,” quoting God’s own words, “You shall be holy, for I am holy” (vv. 15–16). What does it mean to be holy, and why does Peter ground the call to holiness in the holiness of God Himself?
2. Peter says holiness is to mark “all your conduct,” not just our religious activities. Where in your daily life is there a gap between what you profess and how you actually behave? Name one specific area of conduct that you have been treating as off-limits to God’s call to holiness.
3. Peter says, “set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ” (v. 13). How is a clear-eyed hope in Christ’s return connected to holy living, and why does Peter call us to prepare our minds and be sober-minded as part of pursuing holiness?
4. We become like what we hope in. Where have you been setting your hope on something other than Christ, comfort, success, security, approval, and how is that misplaced hope quietly feeding compromise in your conduct? What would it look like to set your hope fully on Christ this week?
5. Peter tells these believers not to be “conformed to the passions of your former ignorance” (v. 14). What does it mean to refuse to be shaped by the desires that ruled our old life, and why is the break with that former way of living so central to holiness?
6. It is easy to be quietly conformed to the world around us, absorbing its values, appetites, and assumptions without noticing. Where have you been letting the surrounding culture, rather than Christ, shape your desires and decisions? What is one pattern you need to stop conforming to?
7. Peter says that if we call on God as Father, who “judges impartially according to each one’s deeds,” we should “conduct (ourselves) with fear throughout the time of (our) exile” (v. 17). How do we hold together the truth that God is our loving Father and the truth that He judges our deeds impartially, and what is the godly “fear” Peter calls us to?
8. Reverence, or the proper fear of God, has largely disappeared from how many people think about Him today. Where in your life have you lost a healthy sense of awe before God, perhaps growing casual or presumptuous about sin? How might recovering a reverent fear of God change the way you live this week?
9. Peter gives the deepest motive for holiness: “you were ransomed ... not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb

without blemish or spot” (vv. 18–19). How does being redeemed by the blood of Christ serve as the great motive for holy living, and how does this keep holiness from becoming either legalism (earning God’s favor) or license (treating grace as permission to sin)?

10. Look back across the passage. Peter has called you to a holiness that resembles your Father, is fueled by hope, breaks with the old life, lives in reverent awe, and flows from the priceless blood of Christ. Name one specific way you sense Jesus forming you through these verses. What is the single truth about holiness and daily conduct that you most need to carry into this coming week?

Now or Later

Reflect on these passages: Leviticus 11:44–45, the command Peter quotes, “be holy, for I am holy”; Romans 12:1–2, presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice and refusing to be conformed to this world; 1 Thessalonians 4:3–7, the will of God for our sanctification and holiness; Hebrews 12:14, striving for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord; 2 Corinthians 7:1, cleansing ourselves and bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God