

God's Holy Nation
A Study of 1&2 Peter: "Holiness Requires Action"
1 Peter 13-25

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. (1 Peter 1:15-16)

I. Hope is Connected to Holiness

- a. A holy person is not strange, but different. Their lifestyle is supposed to differ from unbelievers.
- b. It is not easy to live in this world and maintain a holy walk in the midst of an anti-God atmosphere.
- c. The "world" around us is always pressing against us to conform.
- d. God knows it's tough for those who love Him, called by Him and sent by Him, but He does not leave us without direction from His Word.

II. Holiness and Hope Are Encouraged in the Word

- a. What motivates your daily Christian walk?
- b. The Apostle Peter presents five encouraging motivations to support the fact that our hope in Christ is encouraged and maintained by "holiness."
- c. **We live to be presently and permanently in the presence of God.** (v.13) A Christian who is looking for the glory of God has a greater motivation for present obedience.
 1. The term *sober-minded* means to be calm, steady and to weigh matters. The fact that Christ is coming should encourage us to be calm and collected.
 2. A sober-mind should lead you to have an *optimistic* mind (*set your mind fully on the grace*)
- d. **We live to be the Holiness of God.** (vv.14-15) Children inherit the nature of their parents. God is holy, we should be holy. (2 Peter 1:4) God's holiness is essential to His nature.
 1. In our old nature it was natural for us to live sinful lives. Nature determines appetites and actions.
 2. We once were the "children of disobedience", but now we are to be obedient children.
- e. **We live out the Word of God.** (v.16) The Word of God helps us better know the God of the Word.
 1. God's Word is a sword for battle; it is also a light to guide us in a dark world, food that strengthens us, and water that washes us.
 2. The Word reveals God's mind, heart and will. We should learn it, live it, and be guided by it.
- f. **We live knowing that we will be judged by God.** (v.17) As God's children, we need to be serious about and sin and holy living. God is a loving disciplinarian who *does not* compromise with sin.
 1. *Judge* in this verse means "to judge in order to find something good."
 2. God will search into our ministry motives and examine our hearts. If one of His children disobeys, God must chasten, because of his nature and ours. (Heb 12:7-11)
- g. **We live "in love" with God.** (vv.18-21) Love is the highest motivation for holy living. (John 3:16)
 1. We have been redeemed (set free) through the sacrifice of Jesus. He loved us. He died for us.
 2. He loves us. We love and live for Him. This life of love should lead us to holy living.

III. Thoughts and Considerations for Action

- a. It is only makes spiritual sense that the more Word we have "in us" and "live by" the more hope we will have in our lives.
- b. If something cannot be done to the glory of God, then we can be sure it must be out of the will of God.
- c. When we meditate on the sacrifice of Christ, we should want to obey God and live holy lives for His glory.