

Be Ye Holy

1 Peter 1:13-16

Holiness. It is a word that we do not use very often these days and when we do it is generally in some context that we ourselves are not involved in. Such as; God is Holy, Holy cow, or some other expression. However, today I want to speak to the notion that we, as Children of God are to be Holy. The questions that arise are: **(1) Do we have to be holy? (2) Can we be Holy? (3) When do we have to be Holy? (4) How do we stay Holy?** I want to try to answer these for you and see if we can come up with some ways to help all of us do a better job of living a Godly more Christ like life.

1. **Do we have to be holy?** Vs. 15 I really believe that this is the greatest most difficult command we as Christians have been given. We have seen that God never gives us anything too difficult for us to do, but this one this is so hard for us. We just don't have what it takes to be Holy and we somehow just don't want to do the things necessary to become Holy in God's sight. It takes so much effort on our part for us to do things God's way. Yet when we do, it always turns out best for all of us. God created us to be Holy creatures and thus our only purpose on earth is to be Holy. Oswald Chambers puts it this way. **"The only thing that truly matters is whether a person will accept the God who will make him holy. At all costs, a person must have the right relationship with God."** All too often we want to accept a God that will make us rich, or good looking, or get us out of a jam. Are you willing to have a relationship with the God who can and will make you holy? Look in **Eph. 5:1**. Paul says we are to "be imitators of God, . ." We all agree that God is Holy, then we are to be Holy just as God is Holy. Which brings us to the next point.

2. **Can we be Holy?** Vs. 13 The truth here is Yes! We can and should be holy. However, there are many reasons why we are not holy. We are not holy because we are selfish. We are not holy because we are proud, rich, self-sufficient, good looking, lustful, envious, and a host of other reasons. Nevertheless, God says we can be holy. So how do we pull this off. I believe there are three things here in 1 Peter that will help us to be holy.

(1) Protect our minds. Verse 13 says we are to "gird our minds." Romans 12:1 talks about "renewing our minds." How do we do that? Stay away from those things which will lead us astray. The word "gird" means to "get ready for action". In the days of Paul, the men took their robe and pulled it up around their knees and tucked it under their belts so they could run. Ever try to run in a dress? Then try to run in a pair of short. God wants us to be prepared to run from evil and from danger to our minds and our souls.

(2) Keep our desires. In verse 13 Paul is really saying that we are to keep a clear head about us so we are not drawn into the things that will get us into trouble. We must always keep check on our desires so that they do not lead us to be in a place that we should not be or will be tempted by being there.

Ps 101:3 We must never allow ourselves to become slack in our defenses.

1 Peter 2:11-12

(3) Fix our hope. Here we are told to "fix our hope completely on the grace to be brought to us." This is God's grace through Jesus Christ. We have hope that others do not have. Our hope is in the knowledge that we have eternal life with Christ. **Col. 1:26-27** This is our hope. We have Christ in us, and He will give us eternal life. **Jude 24-25**

3. When do we have to be Holy? Verses 14-15 We are challenged to be holy always. Again, Oswald Chambers puts it very well. **"Holiness means absolute purity of your walk before God, the words coming from your mouth, and every thought in your mind."** We must be **"willing to place every detail of every thought under the scrutiny of God himself. Holiness is not simply what God gives me, but what God has given me that is being exhibited in my life."** Our entire life should exhibit the holiness of God. **1 Peter 2:9**

4. How do we stay Holy? We are to be striving each and every day to be obedient to God. **1 Peter 2:11-12** The hardest part to being holy is our nature does not let us do it easily. Our nature is to do the will of man, not God. But we have the strength of God and the power of God with us. **1 Peter 1:3-5** God gives us what we need to be holy when we need it. But as Oswald said, we must make it a life style and a determination to be obedient to God's will and His commandments. Three things will keep us from losing this battle.

1. Learn the Word
2. Love the Word
3. Live the Word

It is all in the Word.