

Holiness

Part 1

An Unhappy History & A Hopeful Vision

1 Peter 1:13-2:3

Introduction:

I. Holiness – A General Definition

1. By General Definition: Holy Living is Distinct & Purposeful

“**holy**” – **sadaq/hagios** = distinct, set apart for a purpose

The common “moral purity” idea is by implication & dependent upon the “purpose”
i.e. – OT prostitutes/NT unbelieving husbands

Holiness is “calling”/“identity” language, which is why you often, in Scripture have the idea that we are to live purely **because** we are holy, not just to **become** holy.

The “unto” of holiness defines its character.

2. By Biblical Definition: Holy Living is focused/driven by the Glory & Pleasure of God

Throughout the NT -- **God** is the “unto” of Christian holiness.

There is also, often, “holiness” language” even when the term isn’t used

1 Corinthians 10:31 **Colossians 3:23**

3. By Applied Definition: Holy Living is defined by the Character & Identity of God

Our **1 Peter 1:15-16** statement – The central defining principle in understanding and applying holiness

This is why the pursuit of Christian holiness is more about studying and knowing a Person, than it is about studying and implementing a practice.

It is more about who we become like, than what we stop doing.

There is a Heart progression assumed in the vision of Scripture:

Beholding produces *Becoming* that guides *Behavior* - **2 Corinthians 3:18**

II. Holiness – An Unhappy History & A Hopeful Vision

A. A Long History of Confusion

- Various versions of legalism/license, monasticism (ultra-separatism), perfectionism, etc.
- The 20th Century

B. The Happy Exception of Our Reformation Heritage

The Life-encompassing Mission of Biblical Holiness

The Reformation Vision – To engage “All that is True, Good, or Beautiful”

A worldview that reshapes not only our pursuit of the religious/”sacred” in life, but of all of life – home, vocation, creativity, thought, recreation, social engagement, etc.

As life-encompassing as **Colossians 3:22-23** – “Slaves...”

III. Holiness - Changed Lives According to Peter: *Four Broad Principles*

A. Change is the Natural Outworking of the Hope & Happiness of the **Gospel**.

“therefore”

B. Change is the **Fruit** of Grace not Our **Response** to Grace.

C. Change is the Inevitable Effect of **Seeing** God as He is

We are called to:

Reflect the Image of God more than Be the “mirror image” of the World

D. Change is Becoming who we **Are** in Christ

Holiness is more about becoming our Gospel identity than it is about doing the opposite of the world’s activity.

The world can “shape us into it’s mold” in more ways than one.

1 Peter 1:13-2:3

13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; 15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy." 17 And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you 21 who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. 22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, 23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, 24 because

" All flesh is as grass,
And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass.
The grass withers,
And its flower falls away,

25 But the word of the LORD endures forever."

Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

1 Peter 2

1 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, 2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.