

FIRST PETER

The Christian's Life in Exile —Part 7

1:13-16— “Be Holy, for I am Holy”—April 19, 2015

“The will of God is our sanctification, for He wishes His ‘image’—us—to become likewise His ‘likeness,’ that we may be ‘holy’ just as Himself is ‘holy.’” —Tertullian, “On Exhortation to Chastity” (3rd Century)

The Christian's Election and Exile—1 Peter 1:1-2

The Christian's Living Hope—1 Peter 1:3-12

The Christian's Life in Relation to God—1:13-2:3

Peter has begun his letter by helping to establish these believers' identity in Christ. With that understanding in place, Peter now transitions to speak about how Christians are to live in light of those realities.

Emulating God's Holiness—1:13-16

The Christian's Mindset:

“Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded...”

- Graphic Imagery:
1. The gathering up of garments to prepare for an activity
 2. Sobriety

The Christian's Focus:

“...set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

- In light of present circumstances, the Christian's hope comes from an understanding of what lies ahead.
- The phrase “set your hope” is used in a programmatic sense ➡ This is the way of life for a Christian!

“Hope is a dominant theme of this letter (1:21; 3:5, 15), and for Peter it is almost synonymous with faith, as it represents the human side of the salvation equation.” —Greg W. Forbes

Christian Holiness:

“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...”

- The phrase “obedient children” is not a metaphor. Christians are the children of God!
- Contrast: ...do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance

συσχηματίζω (syschēmatizō) — “Conformed”

⇒ Carries the idea of a mold; that which shapes or forms.

...but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct...

⇒ “In conformity with the one who called you...”

“Believers are already holy because of their relationship to God. The command here, therefore, is to demonstrate this reality in terms of ethical behavior.” —Greg W. Forbes

The Holiness of God:

“...since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

- The Christian’s holiness is rooted in God’s holiness which is clearly presented in scripture.
- Peter is grounding his command to these Christians in scripture: *Leviticus 11:44-45; 19:2; 20:7*

What is Peter doing in this passage?

Peter is calling Christians to set their minds and hearts not on what is seen, but on _____ who is our blessed hope.

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. —Colossians 3:1-4

Peter is reminding Christians that we are all being _____ to some image or likeness.

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. —Romans 12:2

Peter is pointing Christians back to God who is holy and Who has gifted to us His holiness _____ so that we might progressively become holy in our _____ by the power of His Holy Spirit who is at work within us.

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. — 2 Corinthians 3:18

- For a Christian, personal holiness is tied inextricably to our _____ of who God is and who we are in Christ according to His Word. It is only by the power of the Holy Spirit working in and through us as we yield ourselves to Him that we will evidence the holiness of God in our lives for His glory.
- What you _____ affects the things that you think about as well as the things you choose to do with your time. These things that you think about and give your time towards will shape and mold what you come to love.

Philippians 3:12-17