

Fact Sheet for **“Be Holy for God Is Holy”** **1 Peter 1:13-21**

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As we open 1 Peter this morning I want to remind you of the creation of man. The book of Genesis opens with the words, **“In the beginning God...”** The Apostle John reminds us of one aspect of God’s nature. He is entirely without evil (1 John 1:5). He formed Adam from the dust of the ground, and Eve from one of Adam’s ribs. They were created with no sin nature, and were a true reflection of God’s own nature. And they were not subject to physical death at that time.

But though they were created with no sin nature they did have the ability to choose evil. With their disobedience to one simple command the whole human race was stained by sin in three ways: (1) imputed sin... physical death, (2) inherited sin... the sin nature, and (3) personal sin when we have the choice.

Death had entered human experience (Genesis 3:22-24). Not only physical death had entered, but also spiritual death (Revelation 20:11-15). Their nature was no longer a true reflection of God’s own nature. And sin expanded rapidly: with Cain & Abel (Genesis 4:1-16), with Lamech (Genesis 4:23-24), and during the time of Noah (Genesis 6:5-8). Noah too was stained by sin, just as all of us are. But God had a plan (John 3:16). With this step of faith we begin to experience our journey back to God’s (2 Corinthians 5:17-21). One day we look forward to once again having no sin nature, and to being a reflection of God’s true nature. We are now on this journey and have not completely arrived yet. And God, through the Apostle Peter, asks us to engage our will.

ESV ¹³ ¶ **Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.**

preparing your minds for action

Obedience is an act of the will.

being sober-minded

Being directed from within, not by circumstances

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

This is the core of verse 13.

¹⁴ **As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵ but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”**

do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance

Literally “being not conformed...” (see Romans 12:1-2)

be holy in all your conduct

This is the core of verses 14-16.

This OT quote (**“You shall be holy, for I am holy.”**) is found in several contexts.

Regarding dietary laws (Leviticus 11:44-45)

Regarding personal conduct (Leviticus 19:2)

Regarding those who turn to mediums or to those who consult the spirits of the dead
(Leviticus 20:7)

That OT quote is a fundamental principle that God has woven throughout the whole Mosaic Law. Peter's quote of it here shows that it is also a fundamental principle for us today.

Peter continues...

¹⁷ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰ He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you ²¹ who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

if you call on him as Father...

Have you believed in Christ for your salvation?

...who judges impartially according to each one's deeds

All of our sins are forgiven in Christ, and we are assured of eternal life, but we will still stand before the judgment seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10).

conduct yourselves with fear

This is not a fear that we will miss out on eternal life. That is guaranteed by God's promise, not by our actions (1 Peter 1:3-5; Ephesians 1:13-14). But this fear should be a fear that we will answer to God for our continued sinful actions in the face of God's costly and precious ransom of us.

you were ransomed... not with perishable things such as silver or gold ... but with the precious blood of Christ

Salvation is free for us, but was costly for God.

"Holy living is motivated by a God-fearing faith which does not take lightly what was purchased at so great a cost."¹

He was foreknown before the foundation of the world

Remember that "foreknown" has both an intellectual component and a relational component. You could understand it as "foreloved."

This salvation was planned before Adam and Eve ever were created.

All of us struggle with sin (Hebrews 12:1-2). The choice to be holy as God is holy is not easy, but it is what God calls us to. The next time you feel the temptation to make a sinful choice run this quote from 1 Peter through your mind... **"You shall be holy, for I am holy."**

¹ The Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament, p. 843.