

“Called to Holiness!”

1 Peter 1:14-16

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Witnessing to the deacon
- “Chameleon Christians”-- a way of coping with the pressure
- Peter’s advice on coping.
 - 1 Peter 1:13-- *“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.”*
 - “Think Straight”
 - “Stay Cool”
 - “Be Optimistic”
 - “Be True to your Calling”

“Called to Holiness!”

- 1 Peter 1:14-16-- *“As obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy.’”*

A. Called to be God’s Special People!

1. **The meaning of “Holy”**—to be *“set apart as special, distinct”*
2. **Holiness and God**
 - a. **His distinctiveness:** His perfections
 - b. **His absolute purity, sinless-ness.**
 - Habakkuk 1:13-- *“You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, and cannot look on wickedness.”*
 - c. **God is the standard of right and wrong.**
 - Leviticus 11:44-- *“For I am the Lord, your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy.”*
3. **God has called us to be his holy people.**
 - a. **God chose Israel to be his special people.**
 - Deuteronomy 7:6-9-- *“For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. The LORD did not set his love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep His oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt. Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments.”*
 - b. **God chose you and I to be His holy people.**
 - 1) **Chosen and saved by grace**
 - Ephesians 2:4-9-- *“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, has made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His*

kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

2) **The Church—a new collection of chosen people.**

- Romans 9:25-26-- *"I will call them My people who are not My people, and her beloved, who was not beloved. And it shall come to pass in the place where it is said to them, 'You are not My people,' there they shall be called sons of the living God."*
- 1 Peter 2:9-10-- *"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of His who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but now are the people of God, who had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy."*

3) **The Church, however, does not replace Israel in God's prophetic program.**

- Zechariah 12:10-- *"I (that is, the Messiah) will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication: then they will look on Me whom they have pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for their only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a first-born."*
- Zechariah 13:1 -- *"In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness."*
- Zechariah 13:9-- *"they will call on My name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'This is My people'; and each one will say, 'The LORD is my God!'"*
- Romans 11:26-27-- *"So all Israel will be saved, as it is written, 'The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sin.'"*

4) **We are called to be distinct from the world.**

- 2 Corinthians 6:14-18-- *"Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said, 'I will dwell with them and walk among them. I will be their God and they shall be My people.' Therefore, 'Come out from among them and be separate, says the LORD. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty."*

B. Living as God's Special People!

1. Don't Compromise by Conforming to former lifestyle

- 1 Peter 1:14-- *"As obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance."*

a. Characteristics of our former lusts

- Ephesians 2:2-3-- *"we walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom we also once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others."*

b. Our ignorance before salvation

- Romans 10:2-- *"had a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God."*

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c. New creations in Christ results in a new way of living

- 2 Corinthians 5:17-- *"a new creation; old things have passed away, behold, all things have become new."*

- Ephesians 4:17-24-- *“you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who being passed feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But you have not so learned Christ. If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”*

2. Reflect God’s Holiness in Every Area of life

- 1 Peter 1:15-16-- *“But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy.’”*

a. The Process: *“Become holy”*

1) As *“obedient children”*—lifetime commitment to obedience.

- John 14:15-- *“If you love Me, keep My commandments”*
- 1 John 5:2-3-- *“By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.”*

2) God’s requirement for Israel: Obedience from the heart

- Deuteronomy 26:16-19-- *“this day, the LORD your God commands you to observe all these statutes and judgments; therefore you shall be careful to observe them with all your heart and with all your soul. Today, you have proclaimed the LORD to be your God, and that you will walk in His ways and keep His statutes, His commandments and His judgments, and that you will obey His voice. Also today, the LORD has proclaimed you to be His special people, just as He promised you, that you should keep all His commandments, and that He will set you high above all nations which He has made, in praise, in name, and in honor, and that you may be a holy people to the LORD your God, just as He has spoken.”*
- Deuteronomy 10:12-13 -- *“And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?”*

3) Today: Different commands but same heart obedience

- Matthew 22:37, 39-- *“love the LORD your God with all our heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind”* and to *“love your neighbor as yourself”*
- John 13:34-35-- *“love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this, all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

4) Obedience results in change from the inside out

5) Danger: Outward religiosity without inward heart change

- Matthew 23:4-5a-- *“They bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. But all their works they do to be seen of men.”*
- Matthew 23:25-- *“cleanse the outside of the dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence.”*
- Matthew 23:26-- *“Blind Pharisees, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also.”*
- Matthew 23:27-- *“white-washed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness.”*

- Matthew 23:28-- *“Even so, you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.”*

b. **The Pattern: “Be holy as I am holy”**

- 1 Peter 1:15-16-- *“But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy.’”*

1) **Standard established in the Old Testament**

- Leviticus 19:1-2-- *“And the Lord spoke to Moses saying, ‘Speak to all the congregation of Israel, and say to them: “You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.””*
- Leviticus 20:26 -- *“And you shall be holy to Me for I the LORD am holy, and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be Mine.”*

2) **Danger: Developing a “holier-than-thou” attitude**

- Matthew 5:48-- *“you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect!”*

3) **Proper response: Humility**