

The Calling of Christian Conversion is Holiness

1 Peter 1:13-16

Introduction: Peter's experience seeing a man's whole life suddenly changed by Jesus' gift of healing. Mark 5

We who know Christ were that man at some level.

1. All Christians receive a Glorious Status as Children of God.

"Therefore" A look back at the things said about this glorious status in verses 2--5.

2. The practical responsibility that comes with this status, verses 13-15.

The principle: A child of God should reflect their heavenly Father's character.

Action points--How this happens:

A. Get your mind focused and clear-headed (verse 13a).

How is this done? First of all, by being "serious".

The Greek "being sober" is used **metaphorically** to describe mental alertness in speech and conduct.

There must be mental resolve in order to pursue the life of hope found in Christ.

Beware of jamming your mind with junk that makes listening to God's word difficult.

B. Get your hope focused completely on God's final grace—Jesus' coming (verse 13b).

Our great hope is the inheritance created for us by God's mercy, Christ's resurrection, and God's grant of new birth (1:3, 4).

A Christian looking for the glory of Christ's return has a greater motivation for present obedience than a Christian who has no expectation for it.

C. Stop conforming to the passions and concerns that used to drive your life (verse 14).

Becoming a right reflection of God involves two processes:

- 1) First stripping from our lives conduct ignorant of God.
Eph 4:22; Titus 2:12; Gal 5:24.

D. Take up the responsibility to represent God in all your conduct (verse 15).

Becoming a right reflection of God involves a second process:

- 2) We must conform everything in our lives to what pleases God.

God's people are to identify with him by being set apart and by relating to the world on the terms that God prescribes.

The "restraining question" we must ask ourselves:

How will this behavior reflect accurately my heavenly Father?

The "reflective question" we must ask ourselves:

How does my attitude reflect accurately my heavenly Father?

Too many people are angry at God when they should be angry at the Devil and their own stubborn unwillingness to abandon his family.

3. The Authority for Peter's exhortation: Scripture, verse 16.

Leviticus 19:2 -- as Christians, we must be set apart from our surrounding culture in a way that is consistent with God's will revealed in Jesus Christ.

What Jesus taught: holiness is about loving God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself, Luke 10:27.

Conclusion

Our calling is to represent our heavenly Father accurately.

To do that, we must free our minds from the waves of useless noise and nonsense flooding our phones, our computers, our radios, and televisions.

Room must be made for input from Scripture or we will be swamped by darkness.

There must be a channel of prayer always open.

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