

# “YOU SHALL BE HOLY”

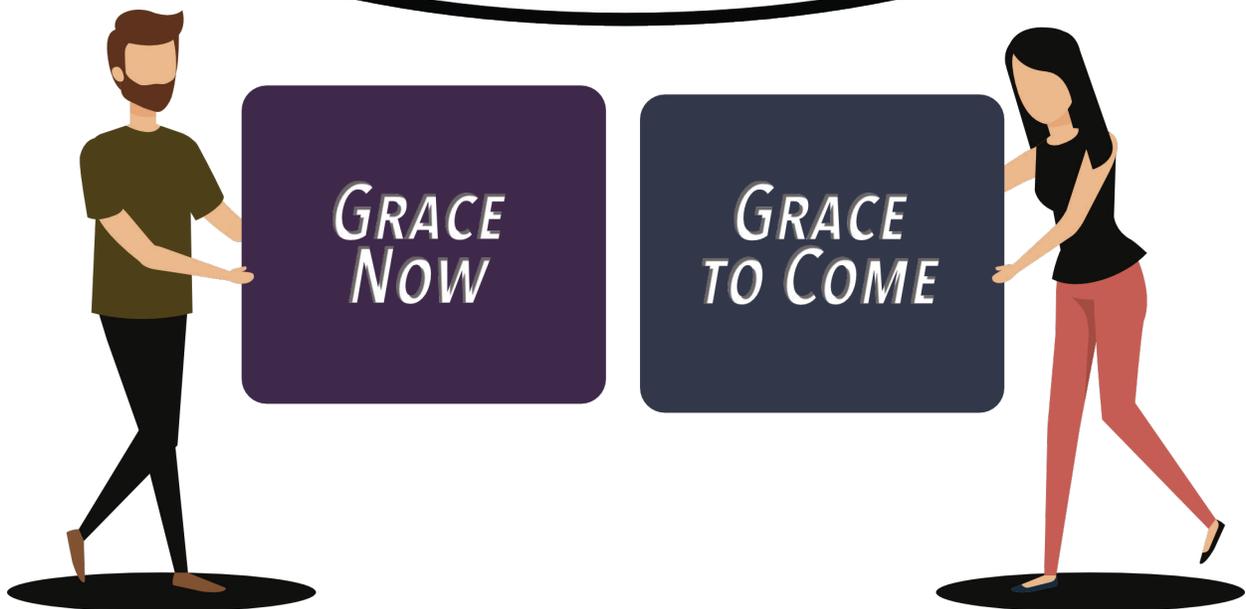
A COMMAND AND A PROMISE

SERIOUS ACTION REQUIRED

Preparing our minds for action ...  
Being sober-minded ...

Lives built on GRACE are lives of ...

Obedience, Holiness, Reverent  
Thankfulness and Blessed Assurance



1. **Grace-Holiness:** Lives of holiness are lives built on the grace of God—the grace that is ours now and the grace that is yet to come, 1:10-13.

- (1 Peter 1:10–13 ESV) Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, 11 inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. 12 It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look. 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.

- A. **Grace Now:** We must live daily based on the grace that is now ours, 1:10-12.
- B. **Grace to Come:** We must think through the important and serious necessity of daily living based on the hope of the grace to come, 1:13.

**“Can it get any better than this?”**

**Yes!** That is our joyful, confident expectation as we anticipate the grace that will be brought to us at the revelation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

2. **Grace-Holiness-Obedience:** Lives of holiness that are built on the grace of God are transformed by obedience to God, 1:14-16.

- (1 Peter 1:14–16 ESV) 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.”

**UNDERSTANDING GOD’S TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESS FOR HOLINESS ...**

- (Leviticus 20:7–8 NIV) Consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am the LORD your God. 8 Keep my decrees and follow them. **I am the LORD, who makes you holy.**

**God makes us holy ... when we submit to and obey God, he transforms our lives into his image. We become holy because we become like God.**

- i. Understand that conformity to our old way of living is opposite to the transformative, holiness work of God in our lives.
- ii. Understand the dynamic of the transformative action of obedient children who are living by grace.

The action that we we prepare our minds for in verse 13 seems to be ... 1) We need to think—prepare our minds, make a thoughtful decision—to set our minds fully on the grace that would be brought to us ... and 2) we need to prepare our minds to obey—to submit our minds to the “transformative” action of our obedience in view of the grace of God as the faithful, loving children of God.

**Positively:** Being transformed by setting our minds fully on grace and obeying God.

**Negatively:** Not being conformed to living by the old ways of our “pre-grace” or our “un-grace” lives.

- iii. Understand that our example of holiness is God himself.
- iv. Understand we are commanded to be holy in everything we do.
- v. Understand that if you are a child of God that you shall be holy.

**QUESTION:** Who makes you holy? Two choices ... you or God. You are making you holy ... "un-grace", or God is making you holy ... grace.

- vi. Understand that God's plan for holiness is about obedience—a process, a path to follow.
- God sets a race (our lives) before us to produce holiness in us.
  - God produces holiness in our lives as we accept and submit to the life God sets before us.
    - (Hebrews 12:1 ESV) Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.
  - God's work of holiness yields abundant fruit in our lives as we understand the necessity and accept the purpose of his discipline.
  - The Father disciplines us because he loves us.
    - (Hebrews 12:5–6 ESV) And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. 6 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."
  - The Father disciplines us so that we may share in his holiness.
    - (Hebrews 12:7, 10 ESV) It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? 10 For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, **but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.**
- vii. Understand that God's plan for holiness has always (Old Testament and New Testament) been a path to follow on which he transforms his people by the renewing of their minds.

**CONCLUSION ...** Do you live in reverence before God as you consider the ransom price for your salvation?

Lives of holiness built on the grace of God yield reverent thankfulness and blessed assurance having been transformed through our loving, submissive obedience to God, 1:17-21.

- (1 Peter 1:17–21 ESV) 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.**
- When we begin to understand the significance of the price that was paid, we will live with reverent thankfulness, 1:17-19.
  - When we begin to understand the significance of the price that was paid and the One who paid the price, we will live with blessed assurance that our faith and hope are in God, 1:20-21.
- DO YOU HAVE THAT?**
- Do you have a reverent thankfulness? Do you have the blessed assurance that your faith and hope are in God?

**KAREN JOBES NOTES ...**

What is holiness as Peter enjoins it upon his readers? ... **To be holy means that Christians must conform their thinking and behavior to God's character.** The character of God was first revealed through the covenant God made with the people he had chosen for himself. [Jobes, K. H. (2005). 1 Peter (p. 112). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.]

God's revelation of his character in the old covenant paled in comparison with the revelation of his character as a living human being in Jesus Christ. **Therefore, Peter's**

**command in 1:15 that his Christian readers be holy was a call to live in obedient relationship to Christ that by definition would set them apart from the customs and values of unbelieving, pagan society.** *The*

*Christian's morality would be defined by, and derived from, the character of God their Father as first revealed in Scripture and then ultimately in the life of Jesus*

*Christ.* In these verses, Peter initially defines the call to be holy by specifying the opposite of what he means: "Do not be conformed as previously to the desires of your ignorance" (1:14). In other words, to be holy requires a change in one's way of life from before, when one's behavior was determined by unrestrained impulses to sin, even in ways accepted by society. God's call that has brought Christians to Christ is also a call to deny those sinful impulses and abstain from certain social customs and practices, making one a stranger

within one's own society. [Ibid. (pp. 112–113).]

Peter's call to holiness is concerned not only with the religious aspects of one's life but also with one's whole way of life ... **The call is to live differently, not just practice religion differently.** [Ibid. (p. 113).]

He quotes Lev. 19:2 to establish the principle that, as Christians, his readers must be set apart from their surrounding culture in a way that is consistent with God as revealed in Jesus Christ. Just as ancient Israel observed customs and morals that set them apart from the ancient Mesopotamian cultures, Peter instructs his

readers that they, too, must be set apart from the customs, rituals, and values of their culture in which they once so freely participated. It is this principle of holiness unto God—of being set apart in a relationship with God—that truly defines them as foreigners and resident aliens with respect to their society. [Ibid. (p. 114).]

**The call is to live differently, not just practice religion differently.**

—Karen Jobes

**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 ESV)

**As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance.**

(1 Peter 1:14 ESV)

**BREAK THE MOLD OF THE "UN-GRACE" LIFE!**

