“As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: ‘Be holy, because I am holy’.”

1 Peter 1:14-15 NIV

Understanding Our Character

God’s people are to strive for holiness. We are instructed to say no to the things in this life that are ungodly and “worldly passions” (Titus 2:11-12) and to live self-controlled lives. Peter gives definition to godliness or holiness by our lifestyle – “line in harmony, be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble – repay evil with blessing” (1 Peter 3:8-9). The Lord wants us to be set apart from the secular society so His character may be observed in this world through a “counter culture”, His people – the Body of Christ.

However, we are faced with a dilemma. It is the condition of disgrace – our fallen nature. We are unable to live a life of holiness on our own. But God, in His infinite grace has made the provision for us to live in His character (Romans 5:17).

Let’s examine Paul’s take on this provision in his letter to the Ephesians (1:3-14).

When God chose us to be holy, how were we to accomplish this (vs. 3-8)?

When does this holiness factor begin (vs. 13)?

What happened when we heard the truth and accepted it (Refer to 1 Peter 1:22)?

How can we have confidence that we are saved from our condition of sin (disgrace)? (Refer to verses 13 & 14.)
We know the sin nature that we have is not going to go away. But we have the power of God to conquer this nature through Christ (Philippians 4:13).

2 Corinthians 7:1 places responsibility on us to live holy lives. What are we to do?

In a similar thought, Peter encourages persons of faith to understand how to proceed toward a holy life (2 Peter 1:3-11).

Where do we go to get help (vs. 3)?

What do we get from Him and for what reason (vs. 4)?

According to verses 5–7 what is Peter challenging the church to do?

What, would you say, is Peter’s goal for the Body of Christ as you read verses 8–11?

What is Peter’s enticement for believers in this passage (vs. 10–11)?