

together we serve – 6

“As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. ¹⁵But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶for 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.)

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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)?