

I Peter 1:13-16

¹³ Therefore, gird your minds for action, keep sober *in spirit*, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts *which were yours in your ignorance*, ¹⁵ but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior; ¹⁶ because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

We are mandated and not suggested to live Holy lives unto our God! So what is Holiness? According to the 1828 edition of Noah Webster's Dictionary, Holiness is "*The state of being holy; purity or integrity of moral character; freedom from sin; sanctity.*" If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, does this definition describe your overall walk with the Lord? If not, then why not? Just as a child often looks like their parents physically, so we are to look like our Heavenly Father in our morals and purity. God does not mandate that we must be perfect, but He does call us to separate ourselves from the things of this world. How would you describe your lifestyle? Would your choices describe you as one who is sanctified or set apart unto God, or as one who is lawless and self consuming? Remember that what God has called us to, is not impossible. It is if you try and do it on your own strength; but if you pursue Holiness with the grace and mercy of God, then it is more than attainable. So why do so few men of God teach on Christians living Holy lives unto the Lord? Could it be that they are listening to the voices of man, rather than the Word of God? One could be very near sighted, and still see that there is little difference between most Christians and the people out in our communities. Far too often, you would never know someone were a Christian, unless they told you, because their life reflects something very different than what they say.

Is the church to be surprised that with neglecting this call to holiness that we have lost the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives and ministries? We watch movies, listen to music, read books, and overall live lives that contradict God and His Word. Why are we stunned to discover that what is killing us spiritually are the very choices that we are making? Overall, the evangelical church in America is more concerned with blessings, than we are in sacrificing anything of ourselves. We are focused in on God's Promises, but we are blind to the conditions. How often do you find people who are willing to serve God or the church; but only on their terms? We deceive ourselves, if we believe that such thinking is acceptable to our God. Brethren, if you are truly a disciple of Jesus Christ, then this life is no longer about "you", but about you serving our Lord. God has forgiven every man and woman who surrendered to Jesus Christ, and has repented from their sins. God never intended for the sacrifice of His Son's death, to be an excuse or license for any of us to stay in that place of sin. Christianity is NOT saying a prayer, it is being "born again" from a life of sin and decadence, and being transformed to a life of holiness. I can imagine nothing more terrifying for a person who believes that they are a Christian, then to one day stand before the Living God and hear those words, "I never knew you." Friend, take a close look at your life today. What fruit is evident in your life? What about those hidden sins which no one except for you and God know? The most important decision any of us can make is to deny our flesh, and to take up our cross! I exhort each of you by the mercy of God, to evaluate and deal with any sin, and to separate yourself unto holiness.