

BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY

1 Peter 1:15-16

By Russell Earl

Suggested Song "Take time to be Holy"

Thesis: I want to show how God wants us to be Holy and why.

Intro: 1. What does it mean to be "Holy"?

2. The Bible speaks of God being Holy, this is not a foreign idea.

3. But, how can we, Christians, be holy?

I. *"but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."*

A. "as He who called you is Holy"

1. God has called us through the gospel (2 Thess 2:14)

2. When we obey the gospel call through obedience we must be willing to be holy people.

3. God is holy thus we too must be holy people (1 Thess 4:3,7)

B. "be holy"

1. The holiness which we are called to is a separation from a life of constant sin and all forms of worldly defilement.

2. God is the perfect pattern of holiness, thus we should follow His and Christ's example of holy and godly living.

3. the idea of "be holy" is literally the action of becoming holy. The entrance of a new way of life.

4. Holiness isn't just becoming a Christian it's denying the sins of the world and walking in the light of truth (the Bible) and Christ (1 Jn 1:7).

C. "in all your conduct"

1. We see in the old testament (Lev 11:44-45; 9:2; 20:7;20:26) the Israelites were required to be a holy nation and peculiar people in the midst of the nations (all the world). Christians today (spiritual Israel) must maintain the same separation from the sinful world around them.

2. We live in the world, but we are not of the world-Christians are different (1 Tim 4:12)

a. In language (2 Cor 7:1)

b. In attitude (proud Rom 1:30, Ps 119:21; haughty 2 Tim 3:4)

c. In example (Phil 3:17, 1 Peter 2:21)

d. in all conduct public and private

1. It is a natural characteristic of people to imitate the god whom they worship; since God is wholly pure, followers of Him ought to follow His example (1 Jn 2:6).

e. There is filthy conduct and there is holy conduct, what is your conduct (Deut 22:14a, 2 Peter 2:7, or good 1 Peter 2:12)?

D. "because it is written"

1. It was written and recorded in the past that God is Holy and it is still affirmed here and continues to be true today.

2. Literally meaning it was written in the past and still remains true today. Since it's still

true that God is Holy we today should still become Holy people of God.

E. “BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY”

1. We must be holy because God is holy. We cannot be unholy people and please God.
2. The phrase “I AM HOLY” literally means “I, myself, apart from all others, am holy.”
3. God alone is HOLY, we too must become holy people (**1 Peter 2:9**).

II. Results of unholiness

A. Not an acceptable child of God

1. We cannot be perfect but we can be those who are not constantly involved in sin.
2. God’s people are not perfect but they are holy because while they make mistakes they are not of the world. God’s people repent, are forgiven and are constantly separating themselves from this world that embraces and freely accepts sin (**1 Peter 2:9**).
3. If we are not trying to separate ourselves from sin (striving to sin less and less) such a person cannot be acceptable in the sight of God (**2 Cor 6:14, Heb 7:26**)

B. Can cause others to become unfaithful (1 Tim 4:12**).**

1. When we are not striving to be holy people we risk being a poor example to others.
2. When we are poor examples then we become poor followers and can cause more to follow our poor example.
3. We are all setting an example the question is what example are we setting for others?

- Conc:**
1. Are you a person with holy conduct, with a holy life (**2 Peter 3:11, Phil 1:27**)?
 2. Often it wouldn’t hurt us to remember the words of the song “*Take time to be Holy*”.
 3. Full Invitation