

## A Sober Call for Holy Living

### 1 Peter 1:13-17

Peter now gives a series of imperatives concerning the lifestyle of those who identify themselves as Christ followers. They are living in a pagan Roman Empire, scattered throughout due to persecution. It might become tempting for them to adapt, to conform to their surroundings, so as to lessen the ridicule and persecution. Perhaps they were tempted to “fit in” so as not to draw attention to themselves.

- \_\_\_\_\_ **your identity. (15)** Often, we as Christians forget that we are called-out from the world. Peter reminds them in verse 15 that they are the ones “called” by the Holy One. The word most often translated “church” in the New Testament is the word, “ekklesia,” or the alternate spelling “ecclesia.”

Understanding the definition of this word is an important component of understanding the church. “Ekklesia” is a Greek word defined as “a called-out assembly or congregation.” The “called-out assembly,” then, is a congregation of believers whom God has called out of the world and “into His wonderful light.” (1 Peter 2:9).

- **Make \_\_\_\_\_ your mind. (13)** Peter begins with a strong admonition concerning our minds. “Prepare your minds” (NASB) or “gird up the loins of your mind.” (KJV). This indicates an intentional act of “cinching or securing that which might entangle or hinder our process.” The ancient people wore long flowing robes, which would need to be secured before strenuous activity, running, or battle.

Be serious about what you feed your mind. What have you allowed to enter your mind this week that hinders your sanctification and holiness?

- \_\_\_\_\_ **conforming to your former way of life. (14)** We know that the world is constantly trying to conform us to their way of life. However, we may forget that the reason we so often yield to this conforming pressure is that it is a return to how we once were. If anyone be in Christ, he/she is a new creation; however the old man must be constantly “put to death,” or else we will quickly return to our former way of life.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **the nature of your Father. (15-17)** Peter leaves us no room for confusion; the very God Who called us is holy and He demands holiness from us. As the children of a holy God, we must never live in complete abandonment and disregard of our Father’s intrinsic nature and character.

The angels, who desire to investigate our glorious salvation, understand the absolute holiness of God, for they are before the throne crying, “holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.”

**Application:** What the world needs to see is “bright lights in a dark world.” They need to see a people who have been called out of the world to live according to a higher, holier standard: God’s standard.

Our failures in the area of holiness are no excuse for lowering the standard and conforming to the world. When we fail, let us repent, claim the sufficiency of Christ, and seek to live in accordance with God’s revealed Word. God alone determines what is “good and right;” He has made it known to us in His Word.