

How to Be Holy! Series on I Peter #2 I Peter 1:22-2:3

Peter declares that, in the face of trials and persecution, a believer can stand firm. As he explains how to live in the “gap” between pardon and paradise, he admonishes us to be holy. Holiness involves a process of **cooperating** with God’s Spirit by obeying. What does this obedience entail?

Holiness = Christlikeness, bearing the family resemblance.

I. Loving Others Sincerely (1:22-25):

- A. Harmony (1 Jn. 3-4) -
- B. Compassion (Colo. 3:12) -
- C. Forgiveness (Eph. 4:2-3) -

II. Shedding Hateful Habits (2:1):

- A. Past Habits of Death (Rom. 7:5) -
- B. Build vs. Destroy (Eph. 4:29-34) -
- C. New Habits of Life (Phil. 4:3-5) -

III. Craving Good Food (2:2-3):

- A. Displace Thoughts (Prov. 23:7) -
- B. Taste and See (Ps. 34:8) -
- C. Grow Healthy (Phil. 2:12-15) -

As we intentionally choose to obey God’s Word by the power of His Spirit, we **cooperate** with His divine plan to make us more and more like Christ! We walk in holiness and spread the fragrance of Jesus everywhere!

A Command ≠ A Demand – they are an invitation to draw down the Spirit’s power as we obey. Commands often involve the impossible!

Going Deeper:

1. What comes to mind when you think of **holiness**? If a friend asked you to explain the idea of “holiness” to them, how would you define it?
2. When Peter commands us to be holy (v.15), how does that admonition hit you? Do you feel **overwhelmed** by Peter’s statement?
3. What part do you believe **obedience** (v. 22) plays in the process of becoming more like Christ (holy)? Do you ever see obedience as an obligation to keep?
4. Have you ever experienced **sincere** (unconditional-agape) love? If you have, who loved you in this way and what effect did it have on you?
5. Do you understand the powerful effect of God’s Word in **displacing** lies that our world teaches us? God’s Truth, when obeyed, brings freedom and life!
6. **Personal:** What are some of the ways we can use to make truth the mainstay of our diet? How can we protect ourselves from Satan’s lies?

Questions for Our Kids:

1. Because the Bible is so important for us as we try to live for Jesus, what are some of the ways we can learn more about what God says in His Word?
2. Why is it so important to obey our parents? When we obey, how do things turn out? When we disobey, what happens?
3. Do you think the same thing is true when we obey what God tells us to do? Do you think His way is the best way?