

1 Peter 1:13-17 (NIV)

13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.

14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.” 17 Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear.

60-01-03 -The Saints: Holy Children

holiness, spiritual heritage, spiritual growth

1 Pet 1:13-17

We progress in holiness as we pursue our holy heritage.

INTRODUCTION:

- Peter begins his 1st epistle describing who we are as *Christian saints*: “**hopeful sojourners**,” “**tested believers**,” and today: “**holy children**.”
- Our hope in Christ’s 2nd Coming undergirds all these descriptions– **v.13**, *Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.*
- But they are more than descriptions: the “*Therefore*” ties our hope to a lifestyle: “*prepare your minds for action*,” and one kind of action, among many others, is to “*be self-controlled*.”
- To expound on this aspect of spiritual growth, Peter talks about us as being *holy children*—heirs of a Holy Father. **HOM.idea**. Pursuing our heritage is actually a way of...

- I. Pursuing Our Identity**– **v.14**, *As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.* [a verse with many negatives]
- A. Often obedience starts in the negative:
 1. How we love it when our babies learn to speak, even if it’s *in the negative* [**Baby’s 3rd word**: “*Momma*,” “*Daddy*,” and “*No!*”]
 2. We should have a positive attitude, but **not** always a positive response. [**Just Say “NO!”** is the *negative* teens need against drug-taking.]
- B. Peter sounds a negative note, by pointing out our past spiritual “*ignorance*” (not a character flaw, but a lack knowledge):
 1. [The proverb, “**Ignorance is bliss**,” works fine until the cop pulls you over for driving too fast in a speed zone you weren’t aware of.]
 2. Ignorance can be frightening and dangerous [Think about driving a car at night on a narrow, treacherous mountain road, and in a heavy fog.]
- C. Peter also speaks *negatively* against conforming to “evil desires.”
 1. In our society, giving in to “*evil desires*” is a popular pattern of behavior, but we need a negative attitude towards it– **Rom12:2a**, Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.
 2. The positive side is transformation: a “renewing” [*reprogramming*] of the “mind” with our Father’s mind– **Rom 12:2b**, Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

TRANS: We progress in holiness as we pursue our holy heritage.

Negatively we must say “**No!**” to thought patterns of a wayward world. But positively, as God’s children, we must say “**Yes!**” to the godly thinking and behavior patterns that identify us with our Father. By this, we are not only pursing our identity, but...

II. Pursuing Our Calling— v.15, *But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do.*

- A. A calling is a choice. [A vocation means “a calling.” Interestingly, it can reflect our relationship with God: a vocation is something we choose, but we often feel it was calling us to choose it.] (*After God calls us to become His children, behaving as His children becomes our vocation.*)
- B. Why are Christians called saints in the Bible?
1. It’s a name or title meaning “set apart,” because it identifies us with God Who is set apart from everything else in the universe.)
 2. But “saint” also means “holy one,” for it calls us to a lifestyle of holiness (“be holy in all you do” because “he who called you is holy”).
- C. This is an imperative, but an imperative with empowerment— v.16, for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”
1. The power of holiness is not in the imperative. (Try being holy on your own, and see if it works!) The power is in the eternally holy I AM, the God Who is giving us the imperative.
 2. In other words, this command, this imperative, can be turned into a statement that confirms God’s relationship to us as a Father: “Because I am holy, you can be holy!”

TRANS: Progress in holiness should be the desire of every child of God, because that’s our heritage. Holiness is our identity. Holiness is our calling. And pursuing that identity and that calling means...

III. Pursuing Our Father— v.17, *Since you call on a Father who judges each man’s work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear.*

- A. When Jesus taught us to pray “Our Father,” it wasn’t just a religious formality but a fabulous reality He wanted us to know through the Holy Spirit— Rom 8:15 (NKJV), For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” [*Abba* is the word a child used to call for his “*daddy*.”]
- B. Most of us probably had great fathers; some earthly fathers may

not have been so great, but our Creator is the perfect Father:

1. He’s “a Father” Who’s fair: “judges each man’s work impartially” (God shows no favoritism, because, when all of us are His favorites, there are no real favorites.)
2. He’s “a Father” Who’s “far out” [modern lingo for “*beyond amazing!*”], and His children should “live...as strangers here”—as separate from worldly ways as God is, but never aloof from others around us.)
3. He’s “a Father” Who’s to be feared; not as an emotional response, but as a behavioral attitude: “live your lives...in reverent fear”— Prov 16:6 (ESV), By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the LORD one turns away from evil. [The fear of God has become unpopular in some religious circles. But when I was a kid, my dad told me to pray for it, so I’d be smart. Then he quoted Prov 9:10 (KJV), The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.]

CONCLUSION: Life is about growth! [Babies: we enjoy holding them, but we delight to see them start to crawl. We love to see toddlers take their first steps. We laugh when small children try to copy grownups. But we’d hate to see teenagers stuck forever in adolescence, never progressing into responsible adulthood.] Is God, as a Father, less concerned than we are as parents? Children are meant to grow up! It’s a tragedy if they don’t! And we, as children of the holy God of creation, are meant to grow up—**to progress in holiness by pursuing the holy inheritance** bestowed on us by our heavenly Father.