

Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. ^a Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

^b Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, ^c when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. ^d Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. ^e Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. ^f For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves. They submitted themselves to their own husbands, ^g like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her lord. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

It is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."^h
ⁱ Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. ^j For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ^k but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. ^l He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. ^m Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. ⁿ Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.^o ^p For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. ^q For, "All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, ^r but the word of the Lord endures forever."^s And this is the word that was preached to you.

1 PETER

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, ^a or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. ^b For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. ^c Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. ^d Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, ^e honor the emperor.

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. ^f Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, ^g now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

The Living Stone and a Chosen People
^h As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— ⁱ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house; ^j to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ^k For in Scripture it says:

ONE BOOK

Sermon Discussion Questions

07-12-26

Rev. Trevor Johnston (LOX); Rev. Brandon Weaver (LW); Pastor Mitch Nazario (ESP)

Sermon Series: One Book - 1 Peter

Week 1: What Does it Mean to be Holy?

1. ICE BREAKER: Devotionals are a supplement to the Bible. A supplement is something that helps or improves something else but isn't meant to replace it.

What's one supplement in your life you couldn't imagine going without? Coffee, vitamins, GPS, YouTube tutorials, protein shakes? Anything that makes life easier but isn't actually the main thing.

2. Read our Scripture for this week, 1 Peter 1:13-16:

¹³ Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. 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."

What stands out to you most in this passage? What do you think Peter is trying to convey regarding how we are to live as Christ followers?

3. Read 1 Peter 1:14. "As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance." In Greek, the word conform means 'to form or mold one's

behavior in accordance with a particular set of standards.' We are always being conformed one way or another.

What patterns or standards do you see influencing your culture today? Which way are you being conformed?

4. Consider Your Content. Read 1 Peter 1:13a. *"Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober..."*. The behaviors that we have are grounded first in thoughts that we have. You become what you behold.

How is the content you behold today impacting your mind? (social media, TV, podcasts, books, etc.)

5. Consider Your Cooperation. Last week we learned grace is not opposed to effort. Becoming more like Jesus requires effort on our part. Pastor Trevor mentioned the WWJD (What Would Jesus Do) wristbands are coming back into style. This was a great reminder in the 80s to think about Jesus before we acted.

What can you do to actively remind yourself of who you are conforming to be? What gets in the way?

6. Consider Your Community. Read Proverbs 13:20. *"Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffer harm."* Who we hang out with will form us into who we are.

Are the people you hang out with regularly forming you more closely to Jesus? Who encourages your faith?

7. Consider Your Circumstances. Read 1 Peter 1:6-7. *"In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all your trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."* God is not the author of pain and suffering, rather God uses all suffering and promises to bring good out of it.

Can you identify a difficult area in your life? How might God be using this to make you more like Jesus?

8. Consider Your Calling. Read 1 Peter 1:15-16. *"But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy.'" The thing God is most invested in in your life is your character development because that is the part of*

you that will live forever. God cares more about our character than our career, our bucket list, our bank account.

What is taking precedence in your life right now? How might God be calling you to reflect His holiness in that area?

9. PRACTICE: Have someone in your group put on music. (We suggest "Soaking in His Presence" if you need a recommendation!)

- Reflect on Peter's invitation for us in these verses:
 - *"With minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope..."* (1 Peter 1:13)
 - *"Do not conform to the evil desires..."* (1 Peter 1:14)
 - *"Be holy, because I am holy."* (1 Peter 1:16)
- Where is your mind today?
- Where are you conforming?
- Where is God calling you to be more like Jesus?
- What can you do this week as a start?