



LIFE GROUP STUDY

LIVING IN HOLINESS

1 Peter 1:13-21

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1. What insight, principle, or observation from this message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.
2. True or false: *"Holy is as holy does"*?
3. God's attribute of holiness describes His separation from everything else (Exodus 15:11; 1 Peter 1:14-16). In what ways is it possible to understand what this means? In what ways is it beyond comprehension? ¹
4. What do you think about Peter's quote from Leviticus 11:45 *"You shall be holy, for I am holy."* Is this possible? Why or why not? What about for you personally?
5. In verse 18, Peter makes the assertion that the blood of Jesus is more precious than perishable things such as silver and gold. That statement directly contracts worldly economics where silver and gold are hoarded over millennia despite the brevity of our lives. What is Peter's point? What makes the blood of Jesus so valuable? (HINT = Is it "just" His divinity?)
6. In verses 20 and 21 Peter writes that Jesus was "foreknown" before the founding of the world and that He was "manifested" (revealed) in the last times for those who are believers in God through Him. How should / can God's foreknowledge and revelation of Jesus' (especially His saving work on the cross) as God's plan for us strengthen and /or effect our belief in God? As you pursue holiness, how should / can God's gracious work on your behalf help you to trust Him verses trusting what is in a perishing world?

1. Holiness describes God's attribute which separates Him from everything else. Relationally, He is separate according to His moral excellence (Exodus 15:11; 1 Peter 1:14-16). God is without impurity or the tarnish of sin. God's is separated from, transcending over, all His creation. The holiness of God is considered a communicable attribute in that we are called to holiness. We are called to withdraw from what is common or unclean while living in consecration to what is divine, sacred, and pure. Baker's Dictionary of Theology states the principle this way, *"The moral quality of the character and actions of those who, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, share Christ's nature and consent to be ruled by it."*

7. In verse 21 Peter writes that God raised Jesus from the dead and gave Him glory (1 Corinthians 15:4-8; 50-53; Philippians 2:9-11; Revelation 5:11-14). Peter writes, that because of Jesus work on the cross and His resurrection we have a certain foundation for our faith and hope in God. What difference does it make that Jesus was bodily resurrected (Acts 1:9-11; Revelation 19:16)? What difference does it make for you personally that Jesus is raised bodily (Isaiah 26:19; Daniel 12:2; 1 Corinthians 15:20-23; 50-57; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)?²

8. What should / can Jesus' work mean for you as you choose to deal with past sin and move forward trusting God?

9. Holiness is a commitment. We must be continually reminding ourselves of our holy calling and daily (minute by minute) recommit ourselves to it and to live in it. Four Steps were shared to remind us of our commitment and to live it out. Think about and (as you feel comfortable) respond / share where you are in living out each of these. Thinking about these steps what might you need to do more of (or less of) to grow in your commitment to holiness?

First: Be very careful about what you let into your mind. Peter tells us to bind up the toga of our mind. Prepare. Be sober. Elevate our thinking. The eyes are the gateway to the mind. There's a very close connection between the two. Be careful what you allow your eyes to focus on. Keep them away from the things of Hell. Keep them focused on the things of God

Second: Separate yourself from sin. The world is constantly putting out a culture of sin without mentioning the disastrous consequences of that sin. Grab on to the consequences. Think through the reality of what it will mean if you don't deal with your sin. So deal with what needs to be dealt with. Repent of what needs to be repented of. Separate yourself from sin.

Third: Renew your reverence for God. Respecting God doesn't just happen on Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. while we're singing worship songs here at Creekside. Right? Reverence for God should be the 24/7/365 God my life is totally yours (messed up, broken, wounded, and wanting) my life is all yours to lead me today and do with as you will. Take time every day to renew your Father-child relationship with God. To seek Him in prayer and the exploration of His word and in worship.

Fourth: Every day refocus on Jesus. As our Adversary nails you with "just this side of Hell" type people and events and temptations it is so easy to start to drift. Whatever happens work at staying focused. A verse of Scripture on the bathroom mirror. Listening to Christian music in the car. Reading a devotional or Scripture at lunch. Whatever works. Keep refocusing on Jesus.

2. As a person Jesus was resurrected with a recognizable glorified body suitable for heaven (1 Corinthians 15:4-8; 50-53). In the same personal and bodily manner with which Jesus ascended to heaven we are to expect His return (Acts 1:9-11). That Jesus is personally and bodily resurrected and returning means that He is not an idea, philosophy, spirit, or the product of religious wishful thinking, but the returning King of kings and Lord of lords (Revelation 19:16). Since Jesus is the "first fruits" of those who will join Him in eternity we have the certain hope of our own personal and bodily resurrection to eternity with Him (1 Corinthians 15:20-23; 50-57).