

Called to Holiness

1 Peter 1:13-17

PART TWO

Introduction

“sacred place or thing; consecrated, dedicated, hallowed” (*New Strong’s Exhaustive Conc.*).

Holiness is the essence of all that God is.

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" (Isaiah 6:3).

Holiness is the beauty of God.

God appointed singers “that they should praise the beauty of holiness” (2 Chronicles 20:21).

“Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.... Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!” (Psalm 96:6, 9).

As children of the living God, we are *called to holiness*.

“...the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began” (2 Timothy 1:8-9).

“Christian holiness is not a matter of painstaking conformity to the individual precepts of an external law code; it is rather a question of the Holy Spirit’s producing His fruit in the life, reproducing those graces which were seen in perfection in the life of Christ” (F.F. Bruce).

Holiness is the *beauty* and the *power* of the Christian.

“He called them that they might be holy, and holiness is the beauty produced by His workmanship in them” (Thomas Watson).

“[holiness] denotes apartness, and so the separation of a person or thing from the common or profane to the divine use” (*New Bible Dict. 2nd Ed.*).

2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

“Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God” (2 Corinthians 7:1).

Our Motivation for Holy Living: *Fear of God and Fear of Self*

“And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile” (1 Peter 1:17).

The use of fear in this context is good, right, and safe conduct for the Christian. It implies a twofold fear:

1. Fear of God
2. Fear of self

Remembering that our Father observes and judges all our behavior, conduct your life in reverential *fear of God* and a conscious *fear of self*.

3 primary reasons why we forfeit holiness, and so lack the beauty of Christ and the power of His Spirit:

1. Lust (some expected benefit)
2. Fear of loss (small view of God)
3. Fear of man (large view of man)

What does it mean to fear God and fear self?

“Let not your heart envy sinners, but continue in the fear of the Lord all the day” (Proverbs 23:17).

How is fearing God and fearing self helpful to holiness?

The fear of the Lord and genuine self-awareness is the great deterrent against the evil in all mankind.

“as it is written: ‘None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.’ ‘Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive.’ ‘The venom of asps is under their lips.’ ‘Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.’ ‘Their feet are swift to shed blood; in their paths are ruin and misery, and the way of peace they have not known.’ ‘There is no fear of God before their eyes’” (Romans 3:10-18).

“as it is written” the tense of the Gk verb indicates *constancy* and *permanence*.

“There is no fear of God before their eyes”

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight” (Proverbs 9:10).

Growth in godly fear is growth in wisdom and understanding.

“And he said to man, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to turn away from evil is understanding.'" (Job 28:28).

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!” (Psalm 111:10).

“The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man” (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

Holiness, purity through obedient living, is our wisdom and understanding:

“See, I have taught you statutes and rules, as the Lord my God commanded me, that you should do them in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.' For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is to us, whenever we call upon him?” (Deuteronomy 4:5-7).

We forfeit the nearness of God—the glorious sense of His presence—when we choose to disobey. We choose to disobey because we lack understanding and self-awareness:

Exodus 32: The Golden Calf. Exodus 33: God no longer leads His people by His presence among them.

“My flesh trembles for fear of you, and I am afraid of your judgments” (Psalm 119:120).

“The body should be in awe of divine judgment, even though the higher and purer part of the soul is strongly and feely tied with the cords of love” (Leighton).

King Josiah’s response to hearing the Word of God:

"Go, inquire of the Lord for me and for those who are left in Israel and in Judah, concerning the words of the book that has been found. For great is the wrath of the Lord that is poured out on us, because our fathers have not kept the word of the Lord, to do according to all that is written in this book" (2 Chronicles 34:21).

Jesus feared the Lord

“There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord” (Isaiah 11:1-3).

Fear of God and fear of self is how we are to work out our salvation (Philippians 2:12).

Because He is holy.

“Faith without fear is self-confidence and self-delusion” (Charles Bridges).

“Instead of being afraid to mix faith and fear, dread their separation” (Charles Bridges).

“but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear” (Romans 11:20).

“For the LORD spoke thus to me with his strong hand upon me, and warned me not to walk in the way of this people, saying: ‘Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread. But the Lord of hosts, him you shall regard as holy. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread” (Isaiah 8:12-13).

“but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy” (1 Peter 3:15).

“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matthew 10:28).

The fear of the Lord, and fear of self, is our security.

“Blessed is the one who fears the Lord always, but whoever hardens his heart will fall into calamity” (Proverbs 28:14).