

Bible Study Resource

A Sojourner's Guide

1 Peter 1:14-16

"You shall be holy, for I am holy." (1 Peter 1:15b, NASB).

Does God ever ask us to do the impossible? Yes, He does. In our own effort, it is impossible to be righteous or holy in God's sight. Yet, God clearly commands it of us. So how do we achieve the impossible? As a sojourner, Peter tells us that holiness is achieved through the discipline of obedience. As obedient children, God is asking you to submit to His plan and His work in you.

Be Holy - Do Not Conform to the World

1 Peter 1:14, Romans 12:2a, 2 Corinthians 5:17

God created us with a mind and a character that can be molded and shaped to conform to the pattern of another. We see it in the life of every child, but the same process is true in adulthood. The world has a pattern – a transitory, changeable, unstable pattern that demands conformity. God warns us of this pattern and commands us to resist; but more than that, He empowers us to do so. At the moment of your new birth, you became a new creation, empowered by the Holy Spirit to resist conformity with the world. So how are you accomplishing this task? In what ways do you allow the world to define you? In what ways do you allow God to define you? How do you resist the world's temptation to conform? What are you doing to turn away from the world and toward God?

Be Holy – Be Conformed to the Image of Jesus

Romans 8:29

God gives each of us a mind and character that desires conformity, and then provides us a perfect pattern in the person of Jesus Christ. His pattern is consistent, enduring, and unchanging, producing profound and lasting results. Consider the following passages:

1. Philippians 2:5-8 – How are you emptying yourself of the world? As you empty yourself how are purposefully filling that void with God?
2. Philippians 3:7-11 – What is God asking you to lay aside, to count as loss for the sake of Christ? How will your obedience in this matter impact your relationship with the Lord?
3. Ephesians 4:11-16 – How are you engaging with the Church to become mature and fully equipped to serve God? How are you measuring your growth - to the fullness that you see in others, or to the fullness you see in Christ?

Be Holy – Be Transformed by the Work of God

Romans 12:2, Ephesians 4:22-24, 1 John 4:7-8, Ephesians 4:32, Philippians 4:4-7, Psalm 25:5

Conformity to Jesus Christ requires a great deal of work on your part, but genuine holiness involves the hand of God at work in you. Holiness is a transformative work, a true partnership between you and your Lord. How is God enabling you to reflect His character and His nature to the world around you? How does His love and forgiveness change your relationships? How does His joy and peace impact your emotional stability? In what ways do you hunger and thirst for Him?