

# Called: Called to Holy Living

## (1 Peter 1:13-16)

### Introduction

Mention the word “holy” and many perceptions concerning that concept surface quickly.

When describing people, ideas of people living in monasteries, off from society as a whole come to mind. Images of people inflicting pain on themselves in order to earn the right to converse with God are presented. Images of men and women living in “off grid”, dressing in black, moving about in horse drawn carriages, avoiding modern conveniences, and practicing “shunning” come to mind. Finally, for some, images of women exclusively wearing dresses, no make-up, and hair buns come to mind.

Are those images of Biblical holiness? Or, is there another aspect of holiness that is overlooked.

The Bible challenges every believer to “be holy.” In fact, “being holy” is a significant part of our calling to discipleship. **YOU HAVE BEEN CALLED TO HOLY LIVING.**

### Contextualize 1 Peter 1

The recipients of Peter’s letter were suffering due to their faith. They were Hebrews that had converted to Christianity. Under Nero, the Romans were very intolerant of Christians. Other Hebrews opposed them because of their faith. Society rejected them because of their commitment to Christ. Times were tough and about to become tougher.

Peter wrote to both instruct and encourage the recipients of his letter. He instructed them on how to live amid persecution and opposition. He also wrote to encourage them to keep the faith during the same times.

He introduced the letter by reminding them of the details of salvation and the details of God’s protection. He then moved into instructing them how to live out that commitment to Christ.

### What does it mean to be “called?”

*Called* means to experience a divine moving on one’s life that results in a sense of purpose, urgency and responsibility that transcends the temporal to the supernatural.

### What does it mean to be “holy?”

*Holy* means to be set apart to something. In the context of Christians, it means to be set apart from sin to God.

In the Old Testament, two significant things were set apart to God – Israel and the temple and its furniture.

Israel was chosen by God as to become an example of what holiness or being set apart to God.

The furniture in the temple was said to be “set apart for temple use exclusively.”

Therefore, holiness is a matter of ownership, more than anything.

## **I. Basis For The Call to Holiness**

Note: The word “therefore (v. 13) ties this paragraph directly to the preceding paragraph.

**A) Purchased by God (v. 3-4)**

**B) Protected by God (v.5)**

**C) Person of God (v. 15)**

## **II. Nature Of The Call to Holiness**

**A) Break With Our Past Lifestyle (v. 14)**

**B) Establish a Habit of Obedience (v. 14)**

**C) Practice Holiness as a Lifestyle (v. 15).**

“Behavior” refers to conduct or “lifestyle.” Here Peter links “holiness” with “behavior” and adds the word “all”, because pagan religions of the day separated “cultic holiness” from everyday life.

Peter is saying that our separation unto God is to affect every area of life, both private and public. There is no such thing as secular life that is not sacred for the Christian.

J. I. Packer, in his excellent book, *A Quest for Godliness* [Crossway], subtitled, “The Puritan Vision of the Christian Life,” makes the point that the Puritans did a good job of integrating their Christianity

into every aspect of life, from the most intimate aspects of married life to the most public aspects of political and social life. He writes (pp. 23-24),  
*“There was for them no disjunction between sacred and secular; all creation, so far as they were concerned, was sacred, and all activities, of whatever kind, must be sanctified, that is, done to the glory of God.”*

That kind of integrated living eliminates hypocrisy. There’s nothing that turns people off more than to see someone who professes to be a Christian, but whose lifestyle denies it. It means that you live with integrity, confessing sin when you blow it, making your Christianity practical in every aspect of life.

### **III. Essentials for The Call To Holiness (v. 13).**

#### **A) Make Up Your Mind Decisively (v. 13)**

#### **B) Get Full Control of Yourself (v. 13)**

"In Israel an ordinary person wore as the basic garment a long, sleeveless shirt of linen or wool that reached to the knees or ankles. Over this mantle something like a poncho might be worn, although the mantle was laid aside for work. The shirt was worn long for ceremonial occasions or when at relative rest, such as talking in the market, but for active service, such as work or war, it was tucked up into a belt at the waist to leave the legs free (1 Kings 18:46; Jer. 1:17; Luke 17:8; John 21:18; Acts 12:8).

Thus Peter's allusion pictures a mind prepared for active work. Sober of spirit describes a Christian who is in full control of his speech and conduct in contrast to one who allows his flesh (i.e., his sinful human nature) to govern him.

#### **C) Abandon Yourself To God's Grace (v. 13)**

## **Conclusion**