

I Peter 1:14
January 22, 2017

Open with Prayer

HOOK:

Last week we acknowledged that in spite of having the great gift of salvation, we're still imperfect. We can tag areas of our life where we feel stuck, or wish we have made more improvements by now, or wonder "why can't I be more (fill in the blank)?" But we should never lose hope. We cling to the fact that upon our salvation, we became a "new creation" in Christ Jesus. The "old is gone, the new has come." We have the Holy Spirit sealed within us to guide us and direct us. We have His power within us to accomplish His Will.

Transition: You will recall that Peter is going to continue to encourage us in our journey. He wrote to all these scattered Christians in northern Asia Minor, and he focused on the significance of their salvation. This salvation was a gift and was the foundation of their faith relationship to God.

We will pick up where we left off last week by reading I Peter 1:14 to hear him out on how significant this salvation is. I still want us to consider that **all of us can successfully work out our salvation BY fulfilling the RESPONSIBILITIES God expects of us.** Let's find the next responsibility that comes with salvation, and then wrestle with HOW to actually fulfill this responsibility. That will be our challenge. Let's begin.

BOOK (NIV 1984):

V.14:

- **As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.**

Process Observations/Questions:

Q v.14: What is the fourth responsibility you see? [Do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.]

Q: When did we live in "ignorance?" [While we were unsaved. Remember I Cor 2:14. Without the Spirit of God, we have no spiritual intelligence.]

Let's X-REF: Eph 2:1-3 to get a stronger understanding of what it means to live in ignorance.

Q: What are the characteristics of those who are dead in their transgressions?

- They "follow the ways of this world AND the ruler of the kingdom of the air (Satan)"
- They "gratified the cravings of their sinful nature and followed its desires and thoughts."
- They are objects of God's wrath.

Peter is saying, "Don't be that guy! Don't lapse into old ways of behaving because God has made us alive with Christ."

Q: That's easier said than done. This verse presupposes that even though we have salvation, we still have to make the choice "not to conform to the evil desires" that WILL come from time to time. So how do we fulfill that responsibility? [Choose to be children of obedience. If we don't express our gratitude for our salvation by following the world's ways, we will be seen as "carnal Christians," which does not bring glory to God. We are not to be imitators of the world. X-Ref Rom 1:5. The idea is that salvation should result in obedience.]

LOOK:

Salvation is a gift from the Lord, and it comes with responsibilities. The Spirit is always leading and guiding us to right thinking and proper behavior. This week we learned that we are not to conform to the evil desires we had when we lived in ignorance. God has given us all the tools we need to deal with temptation and the ability to take captive the thoughts that are not from Him.

Close in Prayer

Commentaries for Today's Lesson:

Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *The Bible Exposition Commentary* (Vol. 2, p. 396). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

The Holiness of God (1 Peter 1:14)

The argument here is logical and simple. Children inherit the nature of their parents. God is holy; therefore, as His children, we should live holy lives. We are “partakers of the divine nature” (2 Peter 1:4) and ought to reveal that nature in godly living.

Peter reminded his readers of what they were before they trusted Christ. They had been *children of disobedience* (Eph. 2:1–3), but now they were to be obedient children. True salvation always results in obedience (Rom. 1:5; 1 Peter 1:2). They had also been *imitators of the world*, “fashioning themselves” after the standards and pleasures of the world. Romans 12:2 translates this same word as “conformed to this world.” Unsaved people tell us that they want to be “free and different”; yet they all imitate one another!

The cause of all this is *ignorance* that leads to *indulgence*. Unsaved people lack spiritual intelligence, and this causes them to give themselves to all kinds of fleshly and worldly indulgences (see Acts 17:30; Eph. 4:17ff). Since we were born with a fallen nature, it was natural for us to live sinful lives. Nature determines appetites and actions. A dog and a cat behave differently because they have different natures.

Pentecost, J. D. (1985). *Daniel*. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 843). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

The believers’ living hope based on their new birth should lead to a lifestyle of holiness. Those chosen for new birth are also called to be holy. Peter exhorted his readers to prepare to meet the challenge of obedience by adopting a new mind-set. The price paid for a believer’s redemption calls for reverence and obedience. Obedience involves purifying oneself and practicing holy living, while offering spiritual sacrifices as a royal priest.

1. THE PREPARATION (1:14)

1:14. Peter now gave two pointed exhortations: **do not conform to evil desires.... be holy**. Actually in the Greek the first is a participle, which is subordinate to *one* command: “be holy.” The participle either supports the command (i.e., be holy, not conforming to evil desires) or they take the role of commands, as in the.

The strenuous mental preparation suggested by the three admonitions in verse 13 is needed so that Christians (d) **do not conform to** (*syschēmatizomenoi*, also used in Rom. 12:2) **the evil desires** (1 Peter 1:14) of their past sinful lives (cf. Eph. 2:3), when they were ignorant of God (cf. Eph. 4:18).