

**I Peter**  
**#5 Becoming Holy (1:13-2:12)**  
The What, The When and the How

**I. The WHAT of Holiness**

Vs. 1:15 -16 BE HOLY

“But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do. For it is written ‘Be holy because I am holy.’”

What Holiness is Not:

A. It is not perfection.

Consider the life of Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Peter  
Consider Rom. 3:23, I John 1:8

B. It is not some form of asceticism.

Some extreme examples: stylites sat on poles for years; others chained their bodies to rocks, eating only grass, while living alone in caves; others tried to mortify the flesh using self-flagellation or the spugna: a sponge that is made of corks with studs, needles and nails that you use to strike your own chest, or coarse hairshirts or even a cilice: a wire chain that was worn around your legs, routinely tightened to cause pain.

What holiness is:

1. Definition: The Greek word “hagiasmos” has a root that means “to separate.” In its various form, it occurs 300 times in the New Testament, 760 times in the Old Testament (all but 108 are from the same Greek and Hebrew roots and mean the same thing).
2. The Pursuit of Holiness is called: SANCTIFICATION.  
“If regeneration had to do with our nature, justification with our standing and adoption with our position, then sanctification has to do with our character and conduct.” (Great Doctrines of the Bible, p. 164)
3. There are two perspectives to SANCTIFICATION:
  - a. Separate from evil: “and said: “Listen to me, Levites! Consecrate yourselves now and consecrate the temple of the LORD, the God of your fathers. Remove all defilement from the sanctuary.” (II Chron. 29:5)
  - b. Separate to God: “If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared for every good work.” (II Tim. 2:21)

#### 4. There is a ceremonial meaning to SANCTIFICATION.

Things were set aside for the service of Yahweh. They were no longer common, they were "holy" and set aside for His use.

Num. 3:13 "for all the firstborn are mine. When I struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, I set apart for myself every firstborn in Israel, whether man or animal. They are to be mine. I am the LORD."

Examples:

- a. Days were set aside (Gen. 2:3, Deut. 5:12)
- b. Places were sanctified
  - Houses (Lev. 27:14)
  - Fields (Lev. 27:16-22)
- c. Tabernacle (and temple) were sanctified (Lev. 8:10)
- d. Priests were anointed (Ex. 29, Lev. 8)
- e. Israel as a nation was set aside (Ex. 19)

#### 5. There is a moral and practical meaning for SANCTIFICATION.

"Since no unclean person nor thing can be set apart to God for His use, sanctification includes and presupposes cleaning." (Christian Theology, p. 244)

Cleansing through the Word:

John 15:3 "You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you."

Eph 5:26 "to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word."

## II. The When of Holiness (The Time of Sanctification)

### A. JUDICIALLY: "Instantaneous sanctification"

In one sense, by the death of Christ, the believer is sanctified (made holy) at the moment of salvation.

I Cor. 6:11 "And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."

"The believer grows in sanctification rather than into sanctification out of something else. By a simple act of faith in Christ, the believer is at once put into a state of sanctification. Every Christian is a sanctified man (or woman)." The Great Doctrines of the Bible, p. 166)

And because of that declaration, believers are called “saints” all throughout the New Testament. (1 Cor. 1: 2, Rom. 1:7, etc)

B. EXPERIENTIALLY: “Progressive sanctification”

It implies the idea of growth into completion; it began with a declaration (on the merits of Christ) and continues on the merits of our obedience.

II Pet. 3:18 “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.”

See also II Cor. 3:18, 7:1

C. FINAL “Complete and final sanctification”

I Thess. 5:23 “May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

When Christ returns, there will be a complete sanctification. He will establish our hearts unblameable in holiness before God (I Thess. 3:13) when we see Him, we will be like Him (I John 3:2).

### III. The HOW of Holiness (the means of sanctification)

A. From the divine perspective – it is a work of God.

The work of God the Father (Jn. 17:17, I Thess. 5:23-24), the work of Jesus Christ (Heb. 10:10, 13:12, I Cor. 6:9-11) and the work of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 15:16, II Thess. 2:13).

B. From the human perspective – it is the result of three things:

1. Faith in the redemptive work of Christ – I Cor. 1:30
2. Study and submission to God’s word – John 17:17, Eph. 5:26, John 15:3
3. Renunciation of sin and pursuit of holiness - Rom. 6:19, II Cor. 7:1, Heb. 12:14

### IV. So what?

Deut. 5:29 “Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever!”

Peter’s injunction is to be holy. We become holy through our obedience to Christ.

**Questions:**

1. Read 1 Peter 1:12 using the New Living Translation.
2. What is Peter communicating in this verse? Can you hear his excitement that the Good News of Jesus is a really big deal? Why is the Gospel a big deal?
3. Because we have received the gospel by faith, we live differently than we used to. How is your life different now that you have a relationship with Christ? This can be an external thing or internal thing. For example, this could be not engaging in certain behaviors or it could be engaging in certain behaviors.
4. If we are forgiven, why does it make a difference how we live our daily lives?
5. Is there anything else from Sherry's teaching that stands out to you?

## **Preparation for Next Study**

1 Peter 1:22: Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart.

1. What are some ways that we can have sincere and fervent love for one another?
2. Share about a person in your life who loves sincerely and fervently.