

THE FAMILY RESEMBLANCE [HOLINESS]

Text: [1 Peter 1:13-16](#) / [Ephesians 4:17-5:2](#)

INTRODUCTION: The Call/Command To Be Holy

Has anyone ever looked at a child and said, without introduction, 'You must be so-and-so's kid'? Something in the jawline, the eyes, the way they tilt their head — you just knew. There's something almost eerie about a strong family resemblance. You're not looking at the parent, but you're seeing them anyway. That's the image Peter and Paul both reach for when they describe what the holy life actually looks like: not performance, not straining — just children who so thoroughly belong to their Father that people can see Him when they look at you.

1 Peter 1:13-16 NIV

¹³ Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. ¹⁵ But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶ for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”

- Have ALERT & SOBER minds
- Have your hope SET on the GRACE of Jesus
- Do NOT CONFORM to evil desires (your former way and condition)
- The command: “*Be holy, as I am holy*” — God’s character is the standard that we’re pursuing

PAUL REPEATS THE CALL TO BE HOLY

Ephesians 4:1 NIV

¹ As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

Ephesians 1:4 NIV

⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love

MAIN SCRIPTURE: [EPHESIANS 4:17 - 5:2](#)

- Put off the old way
 - Be renewed in the attitude of your mind
 - Put on the new self
 - Practical examples
-

1. PUT OFF THE OLD WAY

Ephesians 4:17-22 NIV

¹⁷ So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹ Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed. ²⁰ That, however, is not the way of life you learned ²¹ when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. ²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;

The portrait of the old life — the Gentile/pagan pattern:

- **Futile minds + darkened understanding** — thinking that leads nowhere (vain, empty, useless, frustrated)
- **Hardened hearts** — no sensitivity to the Spirit of God

- **Lost in sin** — given over to sensuality, impurity, and greed

All of this = separation from the life of God.

- This is the nature of the world around us that we are being CALLED OUT of. (Holiness)
- Don't miss: We're being called out of sin and death to LIFE!
- The enemy of your soul wants to twist this in your mind.

Point: You can't pursue holiness without an honest reckoning and turning away from what you were/are being saved *from*. (REPENTANCE)

2. BE RENEWED IN THE ATTITUDE OF YOUR MIND

Ephesians 4:22–23 NIV

²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds;

Romans 12:2 NIV

² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

- Knowing Christ means learning a new way to think
- Holiness starts *inside* — in the attitudes, assumptions, and postures of the mind
- The old self is corrupted by deceitful desires; it must be *put off*
- Renewal isn't behavior modification — it's a transformation at the level of thought

Point: You cannot live a new life with an old mind.

3. PUT ON THE NEW SELF

Ephesians 4:24 NIV

²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

- The new self is *created* — this is God’s work, not self-improvement
 - We must be BORN AGAIN ([John 3](#)). This is the work of the Spirit when we believe.
 - We are a NEW CREATION ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#))
 - We are said to be his children!
- Created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness
- This is who you already are in Christ — now *wear it*

Point: Holiness isn’t something you achieve; it’s something you *become by putting on what Christ has already made you*.

4. WHAT HOLINESS LOOKS LIKE IN THE ROOM [PRACTICAL EXAMPLES]

Ephesians 4:25–5:2 NIV

²⁵ Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶ “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold. ²⁸ Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need. ²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come

out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. ¹ Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Notice all of these 'examples' are in the imperative form—they are commands (to be holy)!

OLD → NEW

- Speaking falsehood → Honest in word
- Sinning in anger → Self-controlled when angered
- Holding onto resentment → Being quick to forgive
- Stealing → Honest in deed
- Lazy & greedy → Hardworking & Generous
- Unwholesome talk → Pure in Speech
- Discouraging, tearing down others → Gracious and edifying in word
- Bitterness, rage and anger, brawling, slander, and malice → Kind, compassionate and forgiving, walking in love

NOTICE:

- Culminates in 5:1-2: *“Be imitators of God... walk in love, as Christ loved us.”*
- Full circle: holiness is Christlikeness — lived out in ordinary relationships

Point: Holiness has a face. (It looks like Jesus). People around you should be able to see it (see him).

CONCLUSION — Back to Peter's Command

- God didn't say *"try to be holy"* — He said *"Be holy as I am holy"*
- The standard is high because the Savior is great and His Spirit is within you and empower you!
- The question isn't *can* you live this way — it's *will* you put it on today?

Closing: *Holiness isn't a performance for God — it's a family resemblance. Children look like their Father. (as obedient children)*