

1 Peter 1:13-16

Verse 13

Therefore – Based on the security and promised inheritance of verses 3-12.

Gird your minds for action – Literally, “*gird up the loins of your mind*”. The picture is of the Oriental custom of gathering up one’s long robe and tying it around the waist to prepare for running or other strenuous activity (Exodus 12:11, Luke 12:35).

Keep sober in spirit – Do not let there be any laziness of mind or mental intoxication that inhibits spiritual alertness and lulls you into sin through carelessness. *We are sober in spirit* when we are in full control of our speech and conduct.

Fix your hope completely – Hope in the NT conveys a sense of confident expectation. Adding the word “completely” implies a very confident and eager expectation, a very strong hope. Note Romans 8:24-25.

On the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ – We should keep our focus on the blessings that God will pour out on us when Christ returns. The reward that God will give us for faithful commitment to Him is worth any current sacrifice (Romans 8:18).

Verse 14

As obedient children – Peter views his readers as children in God’s family whose lives are characterized by obedience. The Father-child, family, relationship is in the background of this whole passage. It is mentioned again in 2:2 where Peter calls them “newborn babes”.

Do not be conformed – “*Conformed*” only occurs here and in Romans 12:2. The idea is to fashion yourself, mind and character, to something else. In Romans it is the world system.

To the former lusts which were yours in ignorance – As Gentile unbelievers they did not know any better. Now, because of the Holy Spirit, they do.

Verse 15

But like the Holy One who called you be holy yourselves – “*The Holy One who called you*” is a reference to God the Father (5:10). The word for *holy* is “*hagios*” and means one who is blameless, consecrated, or set apart. When used of God it denotes His nature (Isaiah 6:3, Revelation 4:8). Jesus is also seen as holy. Note Mark 1:24, Luke 1:35, John 6:69, Acts 3:14, 4:30).

But like the Holy One who called you be holy yourselves – Peter uses this word for call (*kaleo*) six times in this letter. The word has a range of meanings from calling someone in the sense of inviting, to calling someone by name, to bearing a name or title.

Called: (Used 148 times in the NT)

2:9 - ...*Him who has called you out of darkness...*

2:21 – *For you have been called for this purpose...*

3:6 - ...*Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord...*

3:9 - ...*for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.*

5:10 - ...*the God of all grace who called you...*

Be holy yourselves in all your behavior – Because we are children of the Holy One we should reflect His nature. We should be set apart from the world system and our own sinful lusts, and be set apart to God. To be Christ-like is to be Holy in all our behavior.

Verse 16

Because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” – Note the many commands to imitate God’s character: Ephesians 5:1-2, Matthew 5:48, Luke 6:36, Colossians 3:9-10, 1 John 3:2-3, 1 Peter 2:21, etc. Just as children want to imitate their parents, we should delight in imitating God.

Verses 13-16 – Five Commands:

Prepare your minds! Romans 12:2

Keep Sober! 1 Thess. 5:6, 8

Set Your Hope! Hebrews 11:1

Don't be conformed! Romans 12:2

Be Holy! Ephesians 1:4

“Holiness starts in the mind. It includes a departure from ignorance and a renewal of your thought life and it leads to conforming to Christ’s holiness rather than to the lusts of the world.”¹

Chuck Swindoll

¹ Swindoll, Charles R., *Insights on James, 1 & 2 Peter*. Zondervan, Grand Rapids Michigan, 2010. P. 155.