

Uncompromising Holiness Like God (Part 2)

[1 Peter 1:14-16](#)

June 20, 2010

Don Coleman

Introduction

Peter's flow of thought:

- Description of our salvation ([Verses 1-12](#))
 - Greatness of salvation eclipses any suffering
- Demands of our salvation ([Verses 13-22](#))
 - Unwavering hope in God ([Verse 13](#))
 - Uncompromising holiness like God ([Verse 15](#))
 - Two others in balance of chapter

Holy living is the product of genuine hope in God. See also [1 John 3:3](#). For verse three in context, see [1 John 3:1-3](#). John echoes what Peter is saying.

The command to be holy like God is holy is the basic message of [1 Peter 1:14-16](#). We could end there. However, the command raises several questions.

The questions are questions of:

- Definition
- Connection
- Separation
- Imitation
- Compulsion

Question of Definition

What does it mean to be holy?

Holiness is separation from sin and separation to or for God. See the numerous Old Testament references to "Holy unto the Lord." All other holy things gain their definition from The Holy One. For example, the Bible is the Holy Bible because it is the Word of God.

Question of Connection

To whom are we connected? ([Verse 14](#))

Peter assumes his readers are believers. "Obedient children" could be better translated as "Children of obedience." Because we have been saved, we are connected to God. We are children of God.

Question of Separation

Are you separating yourself from what you used to be? ([Verse 14](#))

What used to be natural before salvation is now unnatural. However, it is still possible.

See also:

- [1 Thessalonians 4:4](#) (Verses three and five included for context.)
- [Ephesians 4:17-24](#)
- [Colossians 3:1-10](#)

The clear teaching of these passages matches what Peter says in [1 Peter 1:14](#).

Question of Imitation

Who are we to imitate? ([Verse 15](#))

We are to imitate The Holy One. See also [Ephesians 5:1](#).

It is impossible to be holy to the extent that God is holy, but we can be the same kind of holy. The command is not to be as holy as God is holy. The command is to be holy like God.

Question of Compulsion

What should compel us to be holy like God is holy? ([Verse 16](#))

See Leviticus [11:44-45](#). Bringing Israel up from the land of Egypt is symbolic of salvation. We could read verse 45 as:

For I am the LORD who saved you to be your God; thus you shall be holy, for I am holy.

We are not to be holy for our own sake. The motivation to be holy is for God's sake because He is our God.

See also [Leviticus 18:1-4](#) and other commands in Leviticus that almost always end with either "I am the Lord" or "I am the Lord your God."

Remember whose we are!