

STANDING FIRM: Why Pursue Holiness?

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Standing firm, stands out, in this culture. It's a completely different way of life that the Bible describes as holiness.

What does it mean to be holy?

- Primary meaning: "to be separate or set apart": [Isaiah 6:3](#), ...*"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty"*...
- Secondary meaning: "moral purity or righteousness". Those in Christ are already holy (we're described this way 68 times in the New Testament), so we should live like it: [2 Corinthians 7:1](#), ...*let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.*

1 Peter 1:13-25, 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." 17 Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. 18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. 20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. 21 Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. 22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. 23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. 24 For, "All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, 25 but the word of the Lord endures forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.

WHY PURSUE HOLINESS? Let's look at 10 reasons from 1 Peter:

1. Jesus is coming back soon: [1:13](#)
2. You're a child of God: [1:14a](#)
3. You're no longer ignorant: [1:14b](#)
4. Your God is holy: [1:15-16](#)
5. God loves you enough to discipline you: [1:17](#)
6. You've been bought with a price: [1:18-19](#)
7. It's for your sake: [1:20](#)
8. Jesus rose from the dead: [1:21](#)
9. Holiness leads to loving others better: [1:22](#)
10. God's word is growing in you: [1:23-25](#)

What happens when we are not holy?

- We grieve the Holy Spirit when we sin ([Ephesians 4:30](#)), and so our relationship with God temporarily suffers.
- We're disciplined by God for sin because He loves us ([Hebrews 12:6](#)).
- We experience less joy when we leave God's righteous path ([Psalm 16:11](#)).
- We are a less effective gospel witness toward others ([Hebrews 12:14](#)).

So, this week...how can we pursue holiness?

- See sin for what it is: Dangerous! — [Isaiah 6:5](#), *"Woe to me!...I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips"*
- See yourself for who you are: You're already holy in Christ — [Romans 12:1](#), ...*offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.*
- See God for who He is: Perfect, yet merciful — [Hebrews 2:11](#), *Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.*

God reveals his holiness to us not as a warning so we would run from him in fear, but as an invitation for us to run to him to find the grace that we need. What does pursuing holiness look like? It looks like pursuing God himself.