

Be Ye Holy
(1 Peter 1:15-16)

Introduction:

1. These verses reveal an important requirement that God has given to His children: "*be ye holy.*"
2. Holy: separated from sin, consecrated to God.
3. In his letter, Peter also said that God's children are to be:
 - a. "*a holy priesthood*" (2:5)
 - b. "*a holy nation*" (2:9).
4. The purpose for being holy is because "God is holy" -- to be His children we must possess this same characteristic.
5. The extent to which we are to be holy is "*in all manner of conversation.*"
 - a. In our behavior we are to strive to be holy.
 - b. Peter's quotation from Leviticus illustrates the point.
 - 1) (Leviticus 11:44) "*Ye shall be holy: for I am holy*" is stated in connection with the diet restrictions given to the Israelites.
 - 2) (Leviticus 19:2) "*Ye shall be holy: for I the Lord your God am holy*" is stated in connection with God's laws for morality given to Israel.
6. In our lesson we are studying some information given in 1 Peter 3:8-12 that will help us to be holy.

Discussion:

- I. (vs.8-11) PETER REVEALED SOME INSTRUCTIONS THAT RELATE TO HOLINESS
 - A. (vs.8) To be holy we must:
 1. be "*all of one mind*" [harmonious -- 1 Corinthians 1:10]
 2. have "*compassion one of another*" [sympathetic -- Romans 12:15]
 3. "*love as brethren*" [Romans 12:10a]
 4. "*be pitiful*" [tenderhearted -- Ephesians 4:32]
 5. "*be courteous*" [humble -- Philippians 2:3-4].
 - B. (vs.9) To be holy we must avoid retaliation [taking vengeance personally].
 1. Rather than retaliate, God requires us to respond to ill behavior with "*blessing.*"
 2. Christ has shown us how to react to ill behavior (1 Peter 2:21, 23).
 - C. (vs.10) To be holy we must avoid sinning with the tongue.
 1. Peter showed earlier in 1 Peter 2:1 that God's children are to lay aside "*all evil speakings.*"
 2. Christ has shown us how to avoid speaking "*guile*" [deceit] (1 Peter 2:21-22).
 - D. (vs.11) To be holy we must:
 1. "*eschew* [turn from] *evil, and do good*" [Romans 12:9b]
 2. "*seek peace, and ensue* [pursue] *it*" [Romans 12:18].
- II. (vs.12) PETER SHOWED WHY THESE INSTRUCTIONS MUST BE FOLLOWED
 - A. These instructions will help us to be "*righteous*" [holy].
 - B. Those who are righteous enjoy great blessings.
 1. The Lord's eyes are "*over the righteous.*"
 2. The Lord also hears the prayers of the righteous.
 - C. People who reject or disobey these instructions are unrighteous -- the Lord's face is against those who do evil.

Conclusion:

1. We began with a call for God's children to be holy (1 Peter 1:15-16).
2. We examined some instructions presented in 1 Peter 3:8-12 that will help us to be holy.
3. Peter also showed how we become God's children (1 Peter 1:22-23).
4. Have you become a child of God?
5. If you have, can your behavior be described as holy?