

A HOLY PEOPLE

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As a people, we have been called by God to be holy. We find this command throughout scripture. It is not to be taken lightly. Paul and Peter both instructed their readers to pursue holiness: ***“For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit (I Thess. 4:7-8).”*** ***“Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct because it is written ‘Be Holy, for I am holy’ (I Pet. 1:13-16).”***

What a challenge! We live in a world that mocks the very concept of holiness. Unholiness is beating at the door of our hearts, our homes, our churches. Satan is in full battle to win our minds and the minds of our children.

Holiness in man is the outcome of God’s gracious work in salvation, yet not without the exertion of one’s own free will and the putting forth of strenuous effort. Paul wrote, ***“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; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness (Eph. 4:22-24).”***

Holiness can come only when we are in a right relationship with God and allowing Him to have sovereign reign in our hearts. The Hebrew writer warns, ***“...Without holiness no one will see the Lord (Heb. 12:14).”***