

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Observations of Holiness

(Jerry Fite)

Peter exhorted Christians to look in hope for the future for Christ's return. But as we wait, he instructs God's people to focus upon holy living. He writes, *“as children of obedience, not fashioning yourselves according to your former lusts in the time of your ignorance; but like as he who called you is holy, be ye holy in all manner of living; because it is written, Ye shall be holy; for I am holy (I Peter 1:14-16).*

Peter reminds us that we are fashioned or molded by what we desire. What we strongly desire tends to determine who we are. The Worldly mind which focuses upon the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life will control how we live. If satisfying sexual desires is our obsession, then whatever means one can use to satisfy such lust will expend one's time and energy. Soon our focus will fashion our character as a fornicator, adulterer, or one addicted to pornography. In contrast, desiring God and focusing on becoming godly, one will abstain from fleshly lusts and live in sexual purity.

Fashioned by the worldly mind instead of the holy mind is also living a life in ignorance. The pride of life mind set may motivate you to be sophisticated according to things of this world, but you still will be ignorant of God and the life our Creator wants for you. The worldly mind says life is about the abundance of things we possess, yet Jesus tries to remedy such ignorance by saying, *“take heed and keep yourselves from all covetousness; for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of things which he possesseth” (Luke 12:15).* In all its desires and pride, the world moves on, yet God sees the world woefully ignorant about life, for they are ignorant of Him.

When we know God we know He is holy in Character. How should we respond to such knowledge? We should *“be”* holy as He is holy. We manifest ourselves as *“children of obedience”* by taking God's holy word and living it out in our lives. The *“renewed mind”* creates a *“new man”*. Paul pinpoints this change in this exhortation: *“if so be that ye have heard him, and*

were taught in Him, even as truth is in Jesus: that ye put away, as concerning your former manner of life, the old man, that waxeth corrupt after the lusts of deceit; and that ye be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new man, that after God hath been created in righteousness and holiness of truth” (Ephesians 4:21-24). Holiness does not come automatically through some magical operation of the Holy Spirit, but comes as we submit to the Spirit's word and *“obey”*.

Being holy is to characterize all facets of our lives. *“Be ye holy in all manner of living.”* Careful thoughts and actions are not just to be seen *“in church”* as we assemble for worship, but are to be manifested *“in the world”* as we interact with others. Holy living should be manifested on the job, in our home, during school and wherever we go. Such a focus will probably result in you being good example and acquiring a good name in the community. Please think about these observations of holiness, and let the world observe the holy character of God in your life!