

The Practice That Should Come from Your
Position, Possession and Protection in God
(1 Peter 1:14-17, 22)

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The Big Picture: Given their position in God's kingdom, their possession in God's kingdom, their protection through God for the salvation to come, along with the trials they will have to face, this body of believers must have a manner by which they are to operate.

I. The Manner the Saint Should Have

- A. *You are to be holy in all your behavior* – to separate from indulging in all that is evil so that one may adjust and develop in character formation into the thoughts, desires, and ways of God in all aspects of life
- B. In order to be holy in all your behavior you must be *an obedient child* – as a result of one's faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and relationship with the Triune God, one is willingly submitting to what is right to think, to desire, to say, to do, to relate, to live or to serve as prescribed by God
- C. In order to be holy in all your behavior you are *not to be conformed to your former lust you had in ignorance* – to no longer pursue the desires of your heart that you have been willing to sin to get and to sin when you did not get; to no longer pursue desires that were or became inordinate and self-indulgent, which displaced proper affection for God; these are desires you adjusted your life to before you knew what was right.
- D. You are to *conduct yourself in fear during your time on earth* – a worshipful respect, reverence, awe of God, leading to a careful consideration of all you do in the sight of God as a result of that worshipping respect, reverence, and awe of God.
- E. You are to *fervently love one another from the heart* – to seek consistently the highest good of others unconditionally, no strings attached, with all your mind, will, and affections

II. Areas of Life to Examine to See if You are Walking in Holiness, Fear, and Love

- A. Examine your thinking patterns. (Romans 8:5-8, Romans 12:2)
- B. Examine the things that motivate you to live, to work, to serve, etc. (Matthew 6:21)
- C. Examine what you believe to be true about yourself. (Proverbs 23:7a)
- D. Take notice of what you discuss consistently. (Luke 6:45)
- E. Examine your behavior/attitudes. (Galatians 5:19-22)
- F. Examine your lifestyle. (2 Timothy 2:19, 2 Peter 1:1-10)
- G. Take notice of how you spend your time. (Ephesians 5:8-17)
- H. Take notice of what you are producing in life. (Luke 6:43-49, Galatians 6:7-10)
- I. Examine the company you keep and their effect on you. (1 Corinthians 15:33, Psalm 1:1-3)

- J. Take notice of what you are trying to accomplish or obtain. (1 Timothy 6:6-12, Matthew 6:19-34)
- K. Take notice of how you relate to people. (1 John 1:5-2:11)
- L. Compare all these things to Christ only. (Hebrews 12:1-3)

III. Steps You Can Take To Walk in Holiness, Fear, and Love

- A. Grieve over the distance and damage your sin has caused between you and God, and you and others.
- B. Confess and repent of lusting after those wants or desires you cannot control getting from God, others, or circumstances.
- C. Confess and repent of ungodly thoughts, words, or actions towards God, others, and in circumstances.
- D. Identify the godly thoughts, words, actions, or desires that God is seeking to lead you to develop in replacement of the ungodly ones.
- E. Lay out a daily or weekly schedule of specific things you are to think, desire, and communicate and ways you are to behave, relate, and serve; discipline yourself to practice each task faithfully and consistently apart from your feelings.
- F. Identify various ways you can show thanks to God for what He is allowing in your life.
- G. Learn to receive and cultivate hope that comes from trusting God.