Radiant Church, September 17, 2017

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**Live in Holiness**

**1 Peter 1:13-21**

We all come out of a background that taught us to believe something about what it means to live a “good life”

We sometimes refer to this person or that as “a good guy,” or other people as “bad guys”

We each have a sense of what it means to “be good,” or to be “bad”

Some of us were taught to deny ourselves of pleasures, do the good things you would rather not do, and be good instead of being bad. Ultimately, we were taught to impress other people with our goodness. We were taught to hope that our “good’s” would outweigh our “bad’s.” We call this legalism

Others of us were taught that it is impossible to be good all the time, we can try but we will fail, so we can try just a little, in areas of obedience we feel like trying, and just hope God will accept us anyway. We call this licentiousness

And some of us were taught that God’s grace is greater than any of our sin, so we can just go ahead and sin, it doesn’t matter, because God loves us anyway. We call this universalism

1 Peter 1:13 *Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

Set your hope fully on the grace (of God) that will be revealed at the (second coming) of Jesus

 - prepare your minds for action (gird up the “loins” of your mind)

 - be sober-minded(serious, clear-headed, not distracted)

1 Peter 1:14-16 *As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”*

* so as to be obedient children who respond to their Father’s voice
* do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance

act like adopted kids secure in their adoption, not like orphans

* be holy

act like your Dad who loves you

Our commitment to obedience, to anything, is based on our faith and hope

 What do we really believe is real? Where is ultimate truth found?

 What do we really believe will save us?

 We will be “obedient” to what we ultimately believe and hope for

But to be “holy” means to be taking on the character of God

Leviticus 11:44 *For* *I am the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy…*

“Consecrate” means to clean up, to acknowledge who you are

But what is “holy” look like for us? Who is capable of being “holy?”

Unfortunately, this is where most of us live in the gospel garden…

Mark 4:19 *but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful*

We want to accept what we will, and reject what we will, but with no negative consequences. This is antithetical to a desire for holiness

In theory we are relativists, but in practice and interaction with those who disagree with us we are absolutists.

One rationale for the existence of God involves the presence of morality, ethics that we believe all humans should acknowledge:

1. If there are objectively binding moral obligations, then God exists
2. There are objectively binding moral obligations
3. Therefore, God exists

1 Peter 1:17 *And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile…*

Fear of God is to fear self-deception, relapse, and new offenses against God

We all have a sense of “justice”

 Why then would we not act just, and then expect justice to favor us?

 The time of “exile” will end. Will we be different that the Jews at the

close of the Old Testament (Nehemiah, Malachi)?

Obedience to God is as much a mark of righteousness as a willfully sinful life is a mark of rebellion.

But, there is hope for our hope. We know we cannot just become holy

Psalm 103:10-12 *He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.*

Again, we will be obedient; we will follow what we believe to be ultimately true

Psalm 103:17-19 *But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children’s children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments. The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.*

Brian Chapell said: We can have selfish motivations for obedience to God

1. Doing the things they otherwise hate, so God will not hurt them – is actually self-protection. In this we are not enjoying God
2. Doing the things we think God wants, so God will give more good stuff – is actually self-promotion. In this we are enjoying ourselves

The is to be the real character of Christ’s redeemed people:

 Full of faith in God and Jesus Christ

 Earnestly struggling with sin, they strive for holiness

 They walk in righteousness to the commandments of God

 They abound in enthusiastic motivation to do good

 They are rich in faithful love of the brethren

1 Peter 1:18-19 *…knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.*

God is perfectly holy. Jesus lived a perfectly holy life, on my behalf so He could be the perfectly holy sacrifice, on my behalf, so God the Father would regard me as holy (even though I am not in and of myself.)

1 Peter 1:20-21 *He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.*

Bruce Ashford: As Christians, God wants us to live every aspect of our lives in a way that is shaped by our belief that Jesus Christ is Lord

Holiness is achieved when we are obedient to the Holy One. To be holy is to reflect the holy character of God, as His image-bearers

Brian Chapell: “When we understand that the law or the commandments are echoing the character of God and his care for us, then we delight to walk in that path because it lets us experience the goodness of our God.

We will learn to be obedient to God, to be holy as a reflection of our holy God, only to the extent we know God through Jesus Christ.

The more convinced we are that our hope is in the death and resurrection of Jesus, the more convinced we will be that His ways for us are the best ways for us.

Our hope is not in our capacity to do good, but in the goodness of God to us

Our matching God’s standard of holiness is impossible

But, Jesus, on our behalf lived a perfect, sinless, holy life. When God looks at you or me, He does not think “dirty rotten sinner.” Instead, when he looks at any of us, He thinks “My Son is holy.”

When Peter tells us to “be holy,” he is calling us to reflect the goodness of God, the grace that God has given us through Jesus.

He is calling us to reflect, to imitate the goodness that we have received. He is calling us to worship Jesus with our whole lives, because we put our faith and hope in Him alone.