

# holiness

## introduction

Ask several students to define the word “holy.” Afterwards, read 1 Peter 1:13-16 to introduce today’s devotional on holiness.

## message

Being holy means different things to different people. Some consider you to be holy if you carry a Bible everywhere you go. Others might say you are holy if you go to church more than three times a week. Do you think these things make you holy? Let’s talk about holiness.

1. 1 Peter 1:13 says to be self-controlled. This sounds like something we can do ourselves. But, it’s really a work of grace that comes through the revelation of Jesus Christ. This is the most important revelation anyone can ever receive. The hope He offers, the strength He provides and the grace He gives helps us develop self-control.
2. When we accepted Christ, we found a new way to live. Whether we like to admit it or not, without Christ we had a different set of thoughts and actions. By leaving Christ out of our lives, we conformed to the evil desires of Satan. Peter says to those who desire to be holy, “do not conform to the evil desires you had...” (1 Peter 1:14, NIV). Instead, we are to do what is right in God’s eyes—that’s holiness.
3. Peter concludes verse 16 by commanding, “Be holy.” This is pretty tough, especially when we consider our role model to be Jesus Christ. Remember, we can’t be holy through our own efforts. It is the work of the Holy Spirit.

## salvation appeal

1 Peter 1:20-21 says a lot about salvation. It says a lot about us too. Christ was chosen before the creation of the world and is now revealed for us. Have you accepted Christ as your Savior? Make a decision to accept Christ today. He came to this earth, died a brutal death on a cross and then miraculously rose again from the dead, so that each of us might have eternal life. Jesus is the foundation for a holy life. He can change your life forever.

## challenge

Being holy means that you are living your life before the Lord, following the direction found in 1 Peter. It’s time for us to take a stand on this campus and live lives of holiness. It doesn’t matter how big our Bible is or if we go to church eight times a week. Our concept of God will dictate our lifestyle and convictions. Choose to live a life of holiness!

