

THE PILGRIM CHURCH IN A PAGAN CULTURE
REFLECTIONS ON 1 PETER

GCCBC

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12 April 2023

Study Guide (2)

Session 2: Holy Living in a Hostile World

As an ongoing, weekly assignment, please read 1 Peter prayerfully two times, in two different Bible versions.

1. 1 Peter 1.14–16 is our first key text. 1 Peter 2.4–5 is our second key text. 1 Peter 2.9 is our third key text. From these verses, list as many synonyms of “holiness” as you can think of.

2. From these passages, identify sacrifices that we New Testament believers are called to offer to God:

Romans 12.3

Philippians 2.17

Philippians 4.18

Hebrews 13.15–16

3. For your reflection (write any notes/thoughts that come to mind as you “mentally munch” on these words):

Holy—if any single word captures the uniqueness of God and His people, it is this word *holy*. Holiness, our theology textbooks teach us, denotes separation from sin, moral purity, and perfection. Add to these the *differentness* belonging to covenantal living, the distinctiveness characterizing God’s people in the world.

People hate God for His holiness; their wickedness is exposed and they flee from His presence. And worldlings hate God’s children for their holiness, because it accuses the world of sin and unbelief. How desperately we need, in our age of surging conformism (emphasizing that we should all think alike, act alike, dress and drink alike), the call to spiritual and moral differentness.

Be holy! That’s the call Peter sounds in this passage. Stick to your Bible-based, God-given distinctives! People around you will change; lifestyles will unravel; institutions may crumble. But God and His grace endure forever.

☐ Notes from our discussion