

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

Attitudes You Can Develop to Help You Become Holy

I Peter 2:13-17

¹ If you want to be close to God you need to become a holy person. ²

First Peter, Chapter 1, verses 15 and 16, reads, But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”

What you need are the attitudes you can develop to help you become holy. ³

The word holy ¹ means to dedicate or consecrate, to set apart. So holiness means being set apart from the world by your transformed life. ⁴

A transformed life is necessary to become a holy person. Romans, Chapter 12, verses 1 and 2 state, Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your

¹ ἅγιος.

mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.

So, how can you begin renewing your minds? How can you begin developing attitudes to help you become a holy person? ⁵

Our scripture says, **Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.**^{2 6}

² | Peter 2:13-17.

I. Recognize Authority - v13-14

Recognize authority. ⁷ God expects you to obey civil government. ⁸ Romans, Chapter 13, verse 1 says that God ordained government. **Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.** ⁹ The Lord told Pilate that he had no power except what had been given to him from above. ³ ¹⁰

You are to obey the government. Titus, Chapter 3, verse 1, **Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good . . .** ¹¹ The Lord commanded us to pay taxes

³ John 19:11 - Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above.

and tithes! ⁴ ₁₂ You are to pray for kings and others in authority over you. ⁵ ₁₃

But you must obey God rather than man! ¹⁴ For example, the apostles were told by the authorities (the court) not to preach or teach about Jesus ⁶. ¹⁵ They were brought back to court later because they disobediently taught after being told not to. ⁷ The authority of God trumped the authority of the court!

So what do you do? ¹⁶ You obey the law unless it conflicts with the authority of God! For example, as a “law abiding citizen” do you knowingly break the speed limits on the freeways and interstate highways? They are state laws. You really can’t say that you don’t know what they are. They are actually posted on the

⁴ Matthew 22:21 - Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.

⁵ I Timothy 2:1-2 - I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone — for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

⁶ Acts 4:18-19 - Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, “Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God’s sight to obey you rather than God.

⁷ Acts 5:29 - Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than men!”

side of the road where you can clearly see them. I often call the left lane of the freeway the “criminal lane” reserved for those who are knowingly breaking the law!

Trying to figure out what is right can become a bit confusing. There are religious people, for instance, willing to kill to enforce what they believe to be God’s will. Is that right? For instance, some are so convinced that abortion is murder that they are willing to kill doctors who perform them to protect innocent babies! They justify this by asking the question, “If armed intruders attempted to break into your home, wouldn’t it be right for you to kill them to protect your children?”

Sometimes recognizing and responding to proper authority is not an easy decision. Historically we remember the Inquisition when Christian rulers executed people who disagreed with them doctrinally.

Even today we have those who interpret jihad as “holy war” rather than inner struggle with their faith. ¹⁷

The second attitude to help you become holy is to . . .

II. Recognize Morality - v15-16

. . . Recognize morality. Verses 15 and 16, **For it is God’s will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God.** ¹⁸

What is moral? It is recognizing what is right and what is wrong. ¹⁹ From our Christian perspective everything God does is right. Everything God teaches is truth. He, then, becomes our standard for morality. ²⁰ You get your direction for right choices in life from God’s Word! ²¹

People in the world ridicule anyone who is different than they are. The bullies in school pick on the boys

who have to wear glasses. If you live a strict moral life today people begin questioning what's wrong with you. You don't fit in. You're one of those "Do Gooders". They, then, try to pick out the inconsistencies in your life so they can call you a hypocrite. ²²

Verse 15 shouts at us to silence the gossip by living as much of a consistent life as you can. ⁸ ²³ The Lord said, You are the light of the world. . . let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. ⁹ ²⁴

In Christ you have freedom. ²⁵ You have freedom from the Law of Moses. ²⁶ You have freedom from sin. John, Chapter 8, verse 34 says, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin." It's because of the way you look at morality. ²⁷ John, Chapter 8, verse 32, Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set

⁸ v15 - For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men.

⁹ Matthew 5:14-16.

you free. Learning God's truth and obeying it sets you free from the sinful lifestyle. ²⁸

But verse 16 tells us that you are not to use your freedom in Christ as an excuse not to have self discipline! **Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God.** ²⁹ "Cover Up" ¹⁰ means to conceal or put a coat over. Freedom in Christ doesn't mean freedom to do wrong. ³⁰ **You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.** ¹¹ If you become free from the sinful lifestyle then you are a slave for doing what's right! ³¹

The third attitude to help you become holy is to . . .

¹⁰ ἐπικάλυμμα.

¹¹ Romans 6:18.

III. Recognize Relationships - v17

. . . Recognize relationships. The biblical way of recognizing relationships is found in verse 17, **Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king. ³²**

You do it by respecting everyone. ³³ To respect ¹² biblically is to prize or honor, to place a value upon. Our country has made great civil rights progress in the last fifty years. You need to make the same progress in your attitudes. I still catch myself occasionally having adverse feelings about people of a certain race. I'm sitting in my car at a green signal waiting for a pedestrian to waddle slowly across the street in front of me. She has no concern about the traffic she is holding up as she "takes her sweet time". I think of her in racial terms because in my

¹² Τιμάω.

personal experience it seems like people of her race have done this to me more than others.

Selfish people are selfish people. Race has nothing to do with it. We find an abundance of selfishness interracially. But at a weak moment the racial thought flashes through my mind. Does this happen to you? I bet it does. Each person is a special creation of God. We are made into His image and likeness. People deserve respect! ³⁴

You do this by loving everyone in the family of God. Christian believers are brothers and sisters. They are your spiritual family. Your love for them need to especially be seen in action. ³⁵ Love ¹³ means to satisfy people's needs simply because the need is there. The old King James translation of the Bible used the word "charity" for this word. That's a good word! John, Chapter 13, verse 5 says, **By this all men**

¹³ ἀγαπάω.

will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. ³⁶

You do this by fearing God. In our modern times we tend to emphasize the love and forgiveness of God so much that we ignore the command to fear Him. ³⁷ But Lord Jesus emphasized, **Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.** ¹⁴ God is awesome and worthy of your fear if you dare to forsake Him! ³⁸

You do this by honoring the king. “Honor” ¹⁵ here is the same word as “respect”. You need to remember We are commanded to respect and pray for those in authority over us. ³⁹ First Timothy, Chapter 2, verses 1 and 2 emphasize this, **I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone — for kings and all those in**

¹⁴ Matthew 10:28.

¹⁵ Τιμάω.

authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. 40

Develop these godly attitudes for authority, morality and relationships. Then you will start the journey to being holy!

<http://biblelifemessages.org>