

COMMUNITY GROUP LEADER SERMON SUMMARY, 3/3/13

1 Peter 1:14-19 — “Living Out a New Identity,” Ryan Kelly

Series: *First Peter: Between Two Worlds*

In short: The holiness of God is glorified and displayed in the holiness of his people.

SUNDAY’S OUTLINE

1. Embrace Non-Conformity (14)
 - a) As Obedient Children.
 - b) Leaving behind Ignorant Passion
2. Pursue Holiness (15-16)
 - a) God is Holy.
 - b) He Calls us to be Like Him
3. Live in Fear (17-19)
 - a) Our Father is the Judge.
 - b) He Judges Impartially and Universally.
 - c) Our Ransom was Astonishingly Costly

HELP FOR OBSERVING, INTERPRETING, AND APPLYING THE SERMON TEXT

1. A prominent theme in Sunday’s sermon was that of holiness. In 1 Peter 1:15, Peter writes, “as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct.” As Ryan said, this isn’t a “cool” way to talk. First, what does holiness mean? Then, why do you suppose holiness isn’t popular outside the church, and why is it a neglected topic inside the church?

Holiness means “set apart,” or “being like God.” Holiness doesn’t sound humble. Who are we to say what is and isn’t holy, or that there is a such thing at all? It’s an outmoded concept. It sounds harsh, cold, no fun, and unloving. Inside the church it’s neglected for some of these very reasons, but these are tied to a low view of the wonder, the beauty, and the goodness of God’s holiness. If we knew it we would want to reflect it.

2. How does the father/child relationship help to clarify how holiness ought to be natural and desirable for the Christian (1 Peter 1:14, 17).

Children do what their parents do. They are in many ways naturally like their parents. This was especially true in the times of the New Testament when a son would literally follow in the vocation of his father.

3. Peter tells us to be holy in “all [our] conduct.” What’s being overlooked in your life? In what areas of your life are you more lax with yourself, where you are more comfortable explaining sin away with this or that reason, or ignoring it altogether?

4. Peter also tells his readers to “conduct yourself with fear.” To someone who doesn’t know anything about the God of Scripture, how would you describe what it means to fear the Lord? If someone were to suggest that fear and obeying God from love are incompatible, what would you say? If someone was to suggest that a God who commands us to fear him is not good, what would you say? More to the point of the sermon, how does fearing God lead us toward holiness?

Fear is often equated with reverence, but this is not quite right. Better to say it is trembling with joy and faith. See references below for examples of how fearing God is compatible with trusting him, his grace, his love, his joy, and the new covenant itself.

QUOTES, ILLUSTRATIONS, AND OTHER MATERIAL FROM THE SERMON

- Verses that clarify the nature of fearing God: Psalm 115:11; 130:4; 118:4; 147:11; Jeremiah 32:40-41.
- D.A. Carson: “People do not drift toward holiness. Apart from grace-driven effort, people do not gravitate toward godliness, prayer, obedience to Scripture, faith, and delight in the Lord. We drift toward compromise and call it tolerance; we drift toward disobedience and call it freedom; we drift toward superstition and call it faith. We cherish the indiscipline of lost self-control and call it relaxation; we slouch toward prayerlessness and delude ourselves into thinking we have escaped legalism; we slide toward godlessness and convince ourselves we have been liberated.”
- Rock of Ages, Hymn: “Let the water and the blood, From Thy wounded side which flowed, Be of sin the double cure; Save from wrath and make me pure.”