

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – December 11, 2022

Theme: The World Earnestly Awaits Your Manifestation Topic: Manifesting Purity and Holiness.

Main Texts: 1 Peter 1:3-25

Key verse: 1 Peter 1:15-16 – *“but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy” (NKJV)*

INTRODUCTION: It will be hard to find a Christian who disagrees with the believer’s need to be holy. Even non-Christians expect it of us! The word **holy** means to be separate. Included in the word **holy** is the notion of God’s purity - that He is totally separate from all sin, flawless. Holiness is an attribute of God which He inputs to the believer by His Holy Spirit (1 Peter 1:2). Unlike righteousness, we have a part to play when it comes to purity and holiness. When God calls us to be holy, just as He is (1 Peter 1:16), it means that we are to be just like Him in this regard, not a jot less!

- 1. Read Leviticus 11:44-45; 1 Peter 1:2-3, 15-16; (a) Considering that we are prone to fall, because of the adamic nature, how can we ever hope to be holy? (b) What reasons do the passages give for living pure and holy lives? (c) According to 1 Peter 1:17-19, what are God’s basis for expecting us to be holy? Do you think those are strong enough basis for the expectation?**

1 Peter 1:2 tells us that God chose us, and His Spirit made us holy (NLT). So, positionally, we are made holy, set apart to God on account of our being in Christ. And when, one day, we meet the Lord, we will be perfectly holy, made completely like Him (1 John 3:2). But in between these two, we must actively work being holy and pure. (Galatians 5:16; Rom. 8:13). That is where our topic for today comes into play, where God expects us to manifest purity and holiness. Where the renewal which the Holy Spirit is working inside us is expected to be made evident. Right from creation, God has sought to help His chosen people learn to make a distinction between holy and vile, between clean and unclean. In the garden of Eden, it was eating or not eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. In the Levitical era, it was the laws about clean and unclean foods/things. So, obedience to the distinctions God made between the “clean” and the “unclean” set Israel apart from all other peoples. Unlike other religions where men made their own “gods” and their own rules, according to their own desires, in Christianity, God makes the rules, and they are not according to our preferences or desires. That which sets the true child of God apart from all others is their faith and trust in God, evidenced by obedience to His commands even when they do not seem to make sense.

- 2. Read Hebrews 12:14; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; 1 Peter 1:1, 14-15; (a) Who are those of whom holiness and purity are required? (b) Since purity and holiness is so important to God of believers, why does the mention of purity and holiness often create fear in us? (c) According to Romans 12:2, what can help us become more open to the expectation to be pure and holy?**

It is common to find believers label any message about purity and holiness as legalistic. This attitude presumes that God’s requirement of believers to be pure and holy has been overridden by grace. The truth is that to be holy one must be obedient to God’s Word, because holiness requires obedience to God’s word; one must be separated from all that God says is unclean or morally degrading. The fact that God is loving, merciful, and kind, does not undermine His holiness requirement that His children separate themselves from all that is unclean or morally defiles. There are no exceptions (1 Peter 1:17). One must be morally pure in every area of life. It is God’s will that we should manifest purity and holiness. As Romans 8:29 says that *“we have been called to be conformed to the image of His Son.”*

- 3. (a) According to 1 Peter 1:22, what role does obedience play in a believer’s life? (b) Purity and holiness require separation from certain things and immersion in others. What are examples of things we ought to immerse or separate ourselves from in pursuit of holiness and purity? (e.g., Philippians 4:8; Colossian 3:5. (c) What practical steps can you take today to evaluate and increase manifestation of purity and holiness in your life?**

Prayer: *Father, please help us to pursue Your purposes in our lives as we walk on this beautiful highway of purity and holiness into Your presence and blessing in Christ Jesus. Amen.*