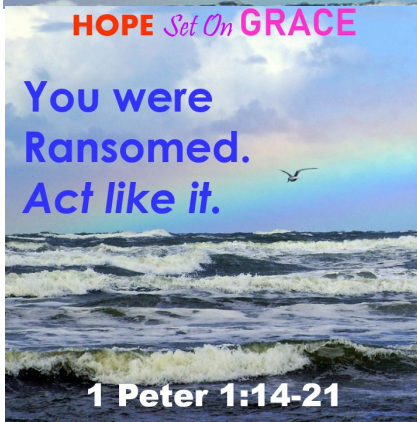




Lesson Five Handout

You were Ransomed. Act like it.

1 Peter 1:14-21

INTRODUCTION

The full title of this lesson should be: “You were ransomed and adopted as a child of the sovereign Creator and King of the universe. Act like it.”

It is by God’s amazing grace that we are invited (by the Gospel) and brought (read, bought) into the kingdom of God. *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.* (Ephesians 2:4).

When we begin to talk about holiness, as Peter does in 1 Peter 1:14-21, we tend to focus on behavior.

Conduct. Outward actions.

And we should. Peter reminds us that we are to “be holy in all your conduct.” (1 Peter 1:15)

But conduct is only a symptom. It telegraphs what is in the heart.

Inconsistent conduct, unholy conduct mixed with more holy conduct, signals a divided heart. It signals a struggle between a new creation (no longer a slave to sin, Romans 6:6) and the residual habits of someone who continues to rely upon the Gospel: *My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.* (1 John 2:1)

Meanwhile, what’s the problem? Why do we continue to struggle with sin? Peter points us to two root causes: mind and motivation. But they both point to the mind, which includes the intentionality and willfulness of the heart.

When we sin, our mind is not set on things above, so we drift back into conformity with the passions of our former (pre-salvation) ignorance. It’s all about the mind.

And when we sin, we reflect mixed motivations. There it is: double-mindedness.

OUTLINE

1. Dealing with 1 Peter 1:15-16: *but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.*
 - a. How does holiness inform the way we interact with, say, the government?
 - i. Example: Dysfunctions, especially for small business, of a somewhat irrational lockdown across all of Michigan?
 - (1) No protest. Ever.
 - (2) Drive-through protest with signs inside the car.
 - (3) Joining a gathering of protestors on the steps of the state capitol?
 - (4) Holding us a sign, “Heil Witmer?”
 - b. Discussion question: How can we go about navigating the “optimal” level of separateness from the world? (e.g., government protest)

2. Poll: Is more difficult to “be ye holy” when Christians are under:
 - a. Greater pressure (difficult times, many stressors and stresses)?
 - b. Less pressure (life is going relatively smoothly)?
3. Preparing your minds for action: the verse 13 lead-in to verses 14-21.
4. Moving toward holiness by being mindful of our ransomed existence, and acting like it: The mind and heart
 - a. v. 14 – As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance,
 - i. G4964 *syschēmatizō* be conformed
 - ii. G52 *agnoia* ignorance
 - iii. G1939 *epithymia* desire for what is forbidden
 - b. It’s about the mind and heart
5. Moving toward holiness by being mindful of our ransomed existence, and acting like it: Totality
 - a. v. 15 – but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,
 - i. G391 *anastrophē* manner of life
 - b. It’s total.
6. Moving toward holiness by being mindful of our ransomed existence, and acting like it: God’s word.
 - a. v. 16 – 16since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” \
 - b. It’s measured by God’s word.
7. Moving toward holiness by being mindful of our ransomed existence, and acting like it: Mindful of motivations, vv. 17-21
 - a. Healthy fear of God’s impartial judgment, v. 17
 - b. Proper awareness of God’s reward, v. 17
 - c. Recognize our status as sojourners on this earth, v. 17
 - d. Appreciate or freedom from slavery, v. 18
 - e. Humbled and dazzled by God’s love, vv. 18-21
8. Conclusion
9. For next time: Read 1 Peter 1:22 through 1 Peter 2:8
 - a. Meanwhile, participate in
 - i. The email threads on Cornerstone Connection
 - ii. The Facebook group discussions

We need to hear from each other!