

Sermon Notes

1Peter 1:13-21 "Wholeness of Will"

To the degree I am captivated by God's holiness (He has no rivals or imperfections & is of infinite & eternal worth & value) is to the degree I'll be holy (wholly God's). Holiness is giving your life wholly to God...mind (head), emotions (heart) & will (hands).

Romans 7:15 -- "For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate."

Wholeness of Will (behavior, actions) is...

- 1) Behavior that is more and more consistent with your beliefs and radically different from the world. v14 as obedient children...v17 each ones deeds... Matt5:13-16
- 2) Not isolation (tourist) or assimilation (immigrant) but infiltration (exile) of this World. v1 elect exiles...v17 throughout the time of your exile...Jer29:7, 11, 13
- 3) Being radically different (Love God with all your heart) and at the same time radically identify (Love your neighbor as yourself). The Great Commandment: Matt.22:37-39
- 4) Living in this world as citizens (with values) of another world (heaven). Jn17:15-19; Rom12:9-21
- 5) Wanting to be holy (wholly devoted to God) more than you want anything else because your heart is most captivated by Christ's love. Motive: v13 Set your hope fully... v14 as obedient children... vv15-16 be holy because God is holy... v17 conduct yourselves with fear...vv18-19 Knowing that you were ransomed...
- 6) Being as holy as you are aware of what your sin has cost Jesus. The more you realize that sin is trampling on His love and wisdom the more you will hate sin. vv18-21; Pro8:13; 2Cor3:18. The essence of the Christian message is **not "Behave!" but "Behold!"**

Growing Notes

1) Paul says in Romans7:15 --"For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate." What does He mean? Have you ever struggled with self-control in any particular area of your life? Why is it a "fool errand" to focus on the acts of the will apart from the loves of the heart for life change?

2) As you read 1Peter 1:13-21, note the number of references to our will (behavior, actions). Why is it important to always keep in mind the order: 1st the WEALTH (Beliefs) of our salvation (vv1-12) and 2nd the WALK (Behavior) of our salvation (vv13-21)? What is the difference between isolation (tourist), assimilation (immigrant) and infiltration (exile vv1, 17) of this World (Jer29:7, 11, 13)?

3) What does it mean to be radically different from the world and at the same time radically identify with the world (Matt.22:37-39)? What do you think a person living in this world as a citizen (with values) of another world (heaven) would look like (Jn17:15-19; Rom12:9-21)? How should a Christian's physical, emotional, spiritual, relational, financial, political life be different?

4) How are the acts of the will ultimately determined by the loves of the heart (Note: We always do the thing we most want to do)? Why do you think that wanting to be holy more than anything because of Christ's love is key to living a holy life? What motives for being holy do you see in this text? Why do you think a person will be as holy as he or she is aware of what their sin has cost Jesus? The essence of the Christian message is **not "Behave!" but "Behold!"** Explain how that will change your behavior (2Cor3:18). Pray.