

# The First Letter of St Peter - *Encouraging words for our time.*

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## Session Three: Be Holy for God is Holy

### Answers and additional notes

#### Passage : 1 Peter 1:13-2:3

**Did Peter have an Isaiah 6 moment? Look back over the events of Peter's life with Jesus from session Two.** (There are at least three.)

*Certainly the Transfiguration, Jesus walking on water and especially Peter's call. depart from me a sinful man. Luke 5:8. It is interesting that an experience of the holiness of God led Peter, Moses and Isaiah to enter a life in the service of God*

**Write down what you think it means for God to be Holy?**

*I would be interested to see your definitions. However I am personally against trying to define God in any way. Many have tried and written books on it. IMHO Holiness must be experienced rather than explained.*

**From this week's passage, what does Peter want us to do to be Holy?**

1:13 Gird up your minds  
Be sober  
Set your hope on God's coming grace

These three exhortations seem to be saying the same thing. Be alert, pay attention, watch of Jesus teaching eg Luke 12:35-41, Matthew 26:41

1:14 Don't be shaped by your passions  
1:15 Be Holy  
1:17 Live in the fear of God. Eg Acts 5:11 & Luke 12:5

Again these three exhortations seem to be saying the same thing. Cf Jesus teaching John 17:17, Matthew 5:48

1:22 love one another deeply. (Using two Greek words to love)  
Peter's command "to love earnestly" sounds like Jesus New Commandment John 13:34.

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#### **For Bible linguists ONLY.**

Peter uses two Greek words for love. The generic word to love **agape** eg. Same word as divine Love Deut. 4:37; our love for God Deut. 6:5; husband's love for his wife Genesis 24:67; or a man's love for his son Genesis 22:2; but also love of evil Psalm 52:3. . And which usually replaces the generic Hebrew word for love, AHEB used 209 times in OT. (See Strongs word list no. 157 and also Greek translation of Hebrew Old Testament Septuagint LXX). Peter also uses **philos**. The love which God The Father has for The Son: John 5:20.

Sometimes agape and philo are used interchangeably but "As to the distinction between ἀγαπᾶν and φιλεῖν: the former, by virtue of its connection with ἄγαμαι, properly denotes a love founded in admiration, veneration, esteem, to be kindly disposed to one, wish one well; but φιλεῖν denotes an inclination prompted by sense and emotion,"

Philo also seems to be used with regard to intensity or preference.

However this linguist discussion of the use of NT Greek words is actually meaningless as both Jesus and Peter would have originally spoken and taught in Aramaic. As such they would have used the similar Aramaic word AHEB the generic word to Love in the Hebrew.

In addition, The Old Testament has a rich range of words to describe the love of God which don't translate easily from Hebrew into Greek let alone into English. Interestingly some of them are retained in the Koran and may be found in Peter's First Letter (see later question on his view of God)

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2:1 get rid of malice, guile, insincerity, envy, slander.

This sounds very much like Jesus teaching Matthew 15:18&19

2:2 long for pure milk. see again John 17:17 which links with Be Holy.

2:4 Come to Jesus - sometimes you need to look ahead at the next sentence. When Peter wrote his letter there were no chapters or verse numbers. Jesus said "Come to me" Matthew 11:28

**Would you agree with this statement? " when we suffer we can go one of two ways: give up and indulge our desires or strengthen our resolve and grow in holiness."**

*Well that has been my experience. What about you?*

**In your time of trial is there one thing you need to stop doing and one thing you should be doing?**

*Only you can answers this one!*

**In this passage Peter is placing an emphasis on the holiness of God, but is this really his overriding view of God? Or are there others or is there a more important underlying aspect of God that motivates him?** Read the whole letter. List the words which Peter uses to describe God and Jesus: an extremely enlightening exercise. You should find Peter is very much a believer in the Trinity and that there is at least one other important attribute of God the Father and one phrase concerning Jesus.

Clue: *I usually use the NIV but its translation 1 Peter 2:3 is misleading? Consider King James, or Youngs Literal Versions . Compare with 1 Peter 5:10 & Exodus 34:6, Jonah 4:2, Psalm 111:4 etc. Peter seems to have changed his mind regarding Jesus? See the incident in Matthew 16:21-23.*

## Peter's view of God.

1:1 Jesus is the Christ  
1:2 God is Father  
1:2 God is Spirit  
1:2 Jesus is the Christ  
1:2 God of Abundant Grace and Peace  
1:3 God is Father of Jesus  
1:3 Jesus is both LORD and Christ  
1:4 Jesus is the Christ and the resurrection  
1:5 God is a Guardian  
1:7 Jesus is the Christ  
1:11 God is Spirit  
1:11 Jesus is the Suffering Christ  
1:12 God is Spirit and is Holy  
1:13 Jesus is the Christ and will come again  
1:15 God is Holy  
1:16 God is Holy  
1:17 God is Father and Judge  
1:19 Jesus is the Christ and Lamb of God  
1:21 God of resurrection and glory  
1:23 God communicates by the word  
2:3 The Lord is Gracious  
2:4 Jesus is a "living stone"  
2:5 Jesus is the Christ and mediator  
2:6 Jesus is a "cornerstone"  
2:7 Jesus is the "cornerstone"  
2:8 Jesus is a "stumbling stone"  
2:10 God is merciful  
2:12 God is coming back  
2:15 God has a will of "Thy will be done"  
2:16 God is Lord  
2:17 God is to be feared  
2:20 God commends patient endurance  
2:21 Jesus is the suffering Christ  
2:21 Jesus is an example  
2:22 Jesus is sinless  
2:22 Jesus is guileless  
2:23 Jesus did not revile or threaten but trusted in God the Father.  
2:24 Jesus bodily carried our sins  
2:24 Jesus is a healer  
2:25 God is our shepherd and guardian.  
3:4 God is seeing  
3:12 God is both seeing and hearing  
3:12 God is against evil  
3:15 Jesus is both Christ and Lord  
3:16 Jesus is Christ  
3:17 God has a will  
3:18 Jesus is Christ who died and rose again  
3:18 Jesus is the "universal sacrifice for sin" - once for all.  
3:18 Jesus is the way to God  
3:19 Jesus really died ( "Descent into Hell" coming up in session 5)  
3:20 God is patient  
3:21 Jesus is the Christ resurrected from the dead  
3:22 Jesus is the Christ who has ascended into heaven and is LORD

4:1 Jesus is the suffering Christ  
4:2 God has a will  
4:6 God the judge of the living and the dead  
4:10 God of Grace  
4:11 God strengthens  
4:12 God the Father and Jesus the Christ glorified almighty for all ages  
4:13 Jesus is the suffering Christ  
4:14 God and Spirit of Glory  
4:17 God is judge of all people  
4:19 God has a will  
4:19 God is Creator  
4:19 God is faithful  
5:1: Jesus is the suffering Christ and the one coming in glory  
5:4 Jesus is the chief shepherd  
5:5 God of humility and grace  
5:7 God is concerned/cares  
5:10 God of all Grace  
5:10 God of Glory  
5:10 God restores, establishes and strengthens.  
5:11 God Almighty.  
5:12 God of true Grace

I may have missed some, but what is clear is that Peter sees God as Merciful and Gracious, as well as Holy. Also Peter sees that Jesus is the suffering Christ. An issue Peter had to come to terms with. See Matthew 16:13-23

**Finally compare Peter's list of the attributes of God with your own. What did you miss out? Does that say anything about the faith of the church today or yourself?**

I missed several including glory which is surprising as orthodox means "right glory"

Again only you can really answer this one. Though I am wondering if the modern Church has lost something of the glory and holiness of God in worship?

As the psalmist says " *worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness*" Psalm 96:9