

WEEK 6: HOLINESS & THE PEOPLE OF GOD  
1 Peter 1:13-2:3

**I. Welcome to Orientation**

- A. Orienting to our new space!
- B. Previously in “A People in This Place”...
- C. Orienting to holiness

**II. A Holy People for a Holy God** (1 Peter 1:15-16, quoting Lev. 19)

- A. What does it mean to say that God is holy? What verses of passages of Scripture come to mind?
  - 1. Leviticus 20:26 and 19:1ff.
  - 2. Isaiah 6:1-5
- B. How does Jesus change or shape our conception of God as holy?
- C. A Holy People: a People who are totally devoted to God and God’s purposes
  - 1. “Devoted” = set apart for a special purpose
  - 2. The “holy” Aebleskiver pan...

**III. The Shape of Holiness in 1 Peter** (1:2, 1:13-2:3)

- A. Holiness isn’t something we accomplish through our own hard work
  - 1. 1:2 — the work of the Trinity
  - 2. 1:18-21 — purchased at a high price
- B. Holiness does ask for our vigorous participation (1:13-15)
- C. Holiness characterizes God’s people because we are children in relationship to a Holy Father (1:14)
  - 1. Holiness starts with nearness to God
  - 2. Holiness is found only in relationship with God
- D. Holiness asks us to live out of who we are and where we are headed rather than who we used to be (1:14-15; 4:3)
  - 1. God’s people have a completely new identity

2. The “holy” shoes...
3. N.T. Wright: holiness as “the learning in the present of the habits which anticipate the ultimate future” (Edwards 63)

E. Holiness is qualitative, not quantitative (Dennis Edwards)

1. Quantitative: You can judge your holiness (or especially someone else’s!) by what you do or don’t do, and particularly what or whom you avoid
2. Qualitative: A changed heart, mind, perspective, and will bring about righteous behavior
3. Example: “Walking into the theater does not make a person unholy, but the wholesale buying of an unwholesome message might!” (Edwards 68)

F. Holiness without love is not holiness at all (1:22, 2:1)

G. We grow into holiness—into full devotion to God—through the Word of God (1:23-25; 2:2-3)

H. Holiness points to God, not to us (2:11-12). More in the coming weeks...

#### IV. Holiness in Highwood

- A. What might it look like for us to live as a people fully devoted to God (“holy”) in Highwood?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- B. How might our hearts/minds/perspectives need to be separated from that of the culture in order for us to be fully devoted to God?