

# Christian Living in Today's Culture

## *Finding Answers in 1 Peter*



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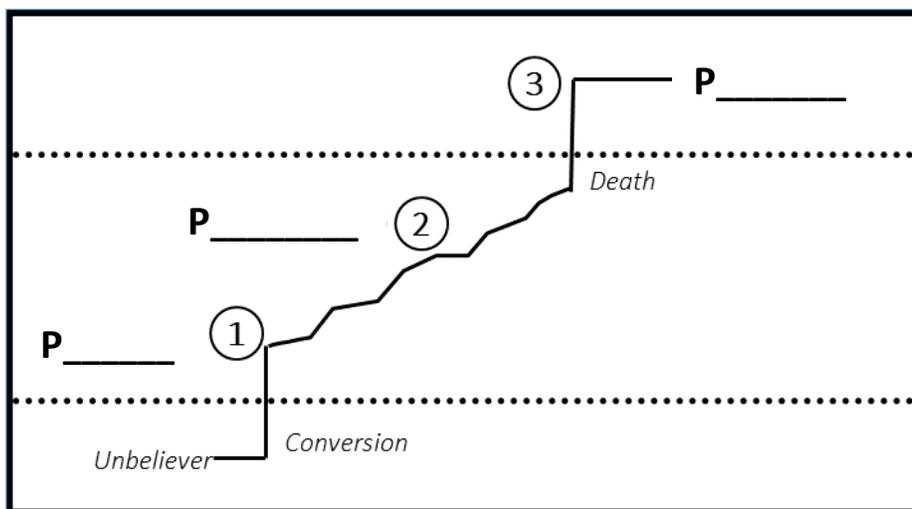
## **PART 3: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE HOLY?**

### **1 Peter 1:13-25**

"But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy..." 1 Peter 1:15-16

❖ To be holy means **set apart for God's purposes (to be sanctified)**

### **A. THREE STAGES OF BEING HOLY (SANCTIFIED)**



#### **1. Stage 1: POSITION**

**Past:** I have been saved from the **penalty** of sin.

The moment you put our faith in Jesus Christ as Savior, you are *positionally* sanctified, or set apart to God (Titus 3:5). You instantly become justified before God and are declared righteous ("not guilty") by him because of Jesus Christ's death, burial and resurrection (2 Cor. 5:21). This initial step

in sanctification involves a definite break from the ruling power and love of sin, so that you are no longer ruled or dominated by sin and you no longer love to sin (Rom. 6:11, 14).

## **2. Stage 2: PROGRESS.**

**Present: I am being saved from the power of sin.**

Then you must be *progressively* sanctified by growing in holiness. This process will not be complete as long as you're in this body, but you must actively work at it (Gal. 5:16; Rom. 8:13). As Martin Luther states it, "we are both sinner and saint at the same time." Until you go to be with Jesus Christ you will always struggle with your old sinful nature.

## **3. Stage 3: PERFECT**

**Future: I will be saved from the presence of sin.**

When the Lord Jesus returns you will be *perfectly* sanctified, made completely like him (1 John 3:2). Your salvation will be completed. You will have not only new spirit (2 Cor. 5:17) but a new body (Phil. 3:21), both designed for eternity in heaven.

# **B. HOW TO PROGRESSIVELY LIVE A HOLY LIFE (STAGE 2)**

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## **1. By understanding that it is a progressive work of God and man.**

It is the process where your practice (behavior and attitudes) is progressively brought in line with your new position. God then begins to gradually make you more like his Son Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 3:18). You are set apart from your old sinful ways, and set apart to mature spiritually and take on Christ's qualities.

## **2. By recognizing that it doesn't happen automatically.**

Spiritual growth is not automatic. It takes an intentional commitment (2 Peter 1:5-8). The process of becoming like Christ always begins with a decision. It is at this point of commitment that most people miss God's purpose for their lives, and remain spiritually immature.

## **3. By keeping in step with the Holy Spirit.**

Living a holy life depends upon you setting yourself apart by an act of your will so that you are controlled by the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:16-17, 25).

## **4. By changing the way I think.**

"We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." (2 Cor. 10:5; Rom. 12:2)

## **5. By denying ungodliness and worldly desires**

Being under God's amazing grace does not mean you can live any way you choose. Once you have been born again you cannot continue to sin as a habit or a pattern of life (1 John 2:15-16; 3:9), because the power of new spiritual life within you keeps you from yielding to a life of sin. Instead you are to live sensibly, righteously, and godly in today's culture (Titus 2:11-12).