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THE KEY TO HOLY LIVING

I Peter 1:15-16 says, ***“But as He (Christ) which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation (behavior), because it is written (In Leviticus 11:44), ‘be ye holy, for I AM holy’ (said God).”***

What does it mean “to be holy?” and what does it mean “in all manner of conversation?” “Conversation” here is the Greek word *“anastrophe”* which means “behavior.” It speaks of our lifestyle, not about our verbal interactions with people.

The word for “holy” is the Greek *“hagios”* which means pure in heart (purpose, intentions) and to be morally blameless. In other words, it means to live your life in a sinless manner.

What does it NOT mean “to be holy?” It is not piety, a public display of how pious (or religious) you are. Jesus criticized the Pharisees and Sadducees for such piety as an outward show when in reality they were not “pure in heart.”

It is not found in following a system of “Do’s and Don’ts”. That is a legalistic form of religion bent on “earning” God’s approval; it is a form of works. Essentially, “holy” means to live a life free from sin, or sinful habits or patterns of behavior. It means we shall be “clothed” in the righteousness of Christ Himself and not from any so-called “righteousness” we try to earn.

Yes, we are likely to slip up and sin occasionally, but not in our manner of living (conversation in KJV). When that does happen, we confess it to God, and it is forgiven. That is promised as said in I John 1:9 which is written specially to those who are saved, we the believers where it says, ***“If we confess our (daily) sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*** That, my friends, is how we maintain a holy life in God’s eyes.