

October 5, 2014
The "Groovy" Groove

1 Peter 1:14-15 – *As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all you conduct . . .*

Peter's order is a tall one. Be holy. That, of course is not possible without Christ. His work on the cross and after was done in order to make us God's holy people, set apart from the world. We could not do this on our own, but thanks be to God that Jesus did it for us. Now, we are a holy nation. A set apart people.

Peter here tells us to act like it. Now, that we are holy, it is time to own up to it and act like it. Christ's redemption was not completed to punch our ticket to heaven so that we could sit and wait for heaven to come, or for us to be able to do whatever we wanted and get away with it. You know all of this. But, in the magnanimity of his all availing work, we sometimes miss that Christ's work was for the mundane things in our lives as well. All of those things we do from day to day, like the cooking and the cleaning and the ironing and the fixing and the talking with our parents or friends, Jesus died to redeem all of that too. He died to give us the strength to do those things right, with Christ in our hearts and other people in our minds.

You see, Christ's work redeemed you *and* your relationships *and* your work. In a way, it carved out a groove that helps you to live your life in a God pleasing way. What we do

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matters to God. It is not that God has redeemed us simply for some future time, but in Christ he redeemed us to live and act in a certain way. Namely, we are to live as his *holy* people. In all of your relationships and in all of your actions, as long as you're living in God's groove that Christ's righteousness carved out, everything is "groovy."

This notion of living as God's holy people is our vocation. Yes, our vocation includes our job during the week, but it also includes and is in fact defined more by our relationships with others than anything else. Some of us are fathers, some are mothers, sons, daughters, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, friends and we also take on many other roles in our relationships with those around us. When you go out and check the oil in your wife's car, when you pick up your husband's dry cleaning, when you call your dad on the phone, when you change your kid's sheets, when you listen to a friend you are carrying out your God-given vocation.

These are all parts of our lives that Christ's reign in our hearts has redeemed. These are part of the groove that he cut out for us to follow to be his holy people. These little things you do matter to Christ. They are part of your Christian identity and your groove. So go, live a wholly holy "groovy" life. Amen.

Pastor Curt Jh

