

Redeemed for a Purpose

In **1 Peter 1:15-16**, Peter quotes Leviticus to make the point that we are to be holy in our conduct because God is holy, and we belong to God. God is so holy that everything and everyone that belongs to God must also be holy. We have been made holy (sanctified) by obeying the truth that sanctifies (**John 17:17**), by the Spirit that is Holy (**Romans 15:16**) and by the blood of Christ (**Hebrews 10:29**). Because we have been made holy, our conduct needs to be consistent with this fact.

This idea is developed throughout Peter's first epistle. Peter reminds us that we have been redeemed with the precious blood of Christ (**1 Peter 1:19**). The idea of redemption is to buy one out of slavery. The same blood that cleanses us and makes us holy is the blood that paid for our redemption from enslavement to sin ("*aimless conduct*" in verse **18**). The consequence of aimless conduct is that someone or something else does the deciding for us. For most, the vacuum is filled by lusts of the flesh (**v.14**) or the lusts of evil companions (**1 Peter 4:2-4**).

Redemption actually goes beyond our freedom from sin. We have been bought with a price. We are not our own. We belong to Jesus because He paid for us. We have become God's servants, and we are obligated to do whatever He says.

We have been redeemed for a purpose. **1 Peter 2:9** is a good verse that declares we are a holy nation and God's special people. The verse finishes by telling us *why* we are holy and special to God, "*that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.*" The church is to glorify God (**Ephesians 3:21**).

An important part of glorifying God is living the right way each day. We are to let our light shine by doing good works that others see and glorify God (**Matthew 5:16**). The world may not read the Bible, but it will read us with great scrutiny, looking for any fault. We must remember this as we face temptation and decisions each day. Let us make sure that whatever we do each day, we do with this purpose in mind. We are here to glorify God by doing good works. Let us be zealous for good works. That is why Jesus bought us (**Titus 2:14**).