

**Redeemed and Adopted** Eighth Week in Ordinary Time Tuesday, May 29, 2018 8:15 AM  
**1 Pt 1:10-16;** Mk 10:28-31 (He is freeing us from what holds us bound and then he is providing an adoption whereby we actually become children of God and we are able to live then in the freedom of God, with the awareness of God.)

**“Therefore, gird up” your loins, “the loins in your mind, live soberly, and set your hopes completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”**

Now this figure of speech is probably hard for us to grasp, to gird up one’s loins. Well in the ancient world men wore very loose garments, but when they had to go somewhere they had to gird up their loins, so to speak; it would be like putting on underwear. They only did that when they had to go somewhere. So **this is an image of going somewhere, but mentally:** “the loins of your mind”; it’s a figure of speech. Get ready to go somewhere; be prepared mentally.

Then he says, **“Live soberly.”** Later on he quotes Leviticus: **“Be holy because I am holy.”** Now **holiness and sobriety are two sides of the same thing**, two ways of looking at the same reality. And people often don’t look at them. Sobriety, for example, they imagine means not having any drink or drugs; so anyone who doesn’t have any drinks or any drugs is sober. No, no, not this kind of sobriety, not what’s meant here. People can have no drink and no drugs and yet **be entirely intoxicated by the world, by it turns out actually their desires for things in the world**, their desires for pleasure, for example, or for acquiring things for themselves, or just the activity and the reality of their own egos. This can take up all their time, in which case they are intoxicated, “tox” being the idea of toxin, poison. Their minds are poisoned. It isn’t actually the world that does the poisoning, but it’s their attitude toward the world, their submission to the world, indeed **their enslavement to the world, which is precisely what we are redeemed from in Christ. We are redeemed from a condition of not being able to help our complete dependence upon the world and what it provides.** And this freedom, which is the result of our redemption is also called sobriety. **Freedom is sobriety; sobriety is freedom, and it is holiness.** “Be holy because I am holy.”

**So holiness is the nature of God**, you could say—the nature of God. Well what is the nature of God? **“I AM WHO I AM” I am utterly conscious of everything, of the entire**

**creation, of every part of it at every moment.** That's holiness. That's supreme and absolute self-consciousness. That's God.

**Now God said, be like me, you can do it.** I will redeem you. I will buy you back from your enslavement to material reality and I will allow you to be free, to live a sober life, but you have to cooperate. You have to play your part. **You have to make an effort not to keep running back to your enslavement.** That's why St. Paul said, "We have now a spirit of adoption, not a spirit of slavery." **The spirit of adoption allows us to say *Abba* to God**—to God, not to our own physical fathers, not to our bosses, not to our superiors, but to God. That's a spirit of freedom; that's a spirit of adoption, and we are redeemed for that. **We are bought back from slavery for that.** When you are a slave in the ancient world the second best thing would be to be redeemed; that would mean freed from slavery, bought back, literally; since a slave was bought, to be bought back would be to acquire one's freedom. That was the second best thing. **The best would be to be adopted as the actual heir to the master.** So those words are used in our faith to describe what God is doing in Christ. **He is freeing us from what holds us bound and then he is providing an adoption whereby we actually become children of God and we are able to live then in the freedom of God, with the awareness of God.** And that's sobriety, but **we have to do our part. We have to avoid inordinate desires.** We have to avoid traps; we should learn by experience where they are for us; we have to avoid the occasions by which we get ensnared in the world. We have to take a root inventory of what we want out of life and realize how much of it really is in accord with the will of God and how much of it is fluff. And I would say that actually for the most part a lot is fluff. And that's all part of living a sober life. So this is what Peter is trying to encourage his followers to do.