



BAND of BROTHERS

SPRING SERIES 2022 – WEEK 3

### **1 Peter 1:14-25: Living and Loving Like Christ**

*“...you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from you forefathers not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ...”*

– 1 Peter 1:18-19 ESV

- **Live like Christ**

*“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 ESV

*“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”* – Philippians 1:21 ESV

- Your very life is to emulate Christ’s
- But why?

- **Future Hope**

- Peter is writing to “elect exiles”
  - The term “exiles” implies someone who has been kicked out or is not “home”
  - These exiles, we read, were being persecuted for their faith
    - Alienation by peers, family, coworkers, etc.
- Peter is encouraging them by setting their gaze to the future
  - But how?

*Therefore, preparing you minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”* – 1 Peter 1:13 ESV

“Our lifelong nostalgia, our longing to be reunited with something in the universe from which we now feel cut off, to be on the inside of some door which we have always seen from the outside, is no mere neurotic fancy, but the truest index of our real situation. And to be at last summoned inside would be both glory and honor beyond all merits and also the healing of that old ache.” – C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*

- This should be our mindset as we live out our lives in the here-and-now
  - We’re here, but we should long for home
  - We are to live with the end in mind
    - Value your position
    - Honor your redeemer
    - Love your brothers

- **Value Your Position**

*“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 your conduct.”* – 1 Peter 1:14-15 ESV

- ἅγιος – sacred, holy, pure, consecrated, set apart
  - Because God chose us, we are set apart, we are different, our lives should be distinctive
  - It’s not something’s value that makes it holy
    - It is holy because God sets it apart
    - Temple, Levitical Priests, Everything in the Temple
    - You and me
    - God declares that we are already holy
  - Pure and Set Apart

*“It is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’”* – 1 Peter 1:16 ESV

- Does God need to become holy?
- No, He is already holy, set apart, distinct
- And so are we
- But do we live as who and what we are?

*“For I am the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy. You shall not defile yourselves with any swarming thing that crawls on the ground, For I am the Lord who brought you up out of the land of Egypt to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.”* – Leviticus 11:44-45 ESV

- Peter quotes Leviticus 11:44-45
  - Not consuming certain animals would not make that people of Israel holy

- They already were holy – according to God
- Doing those things would make them unholy

*“You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy. Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and you shall keep my Sabbaths: I am the Lord your God.” – Leviticus 19:2-3 ESV*

- You shall because you are
- Not you shall so you might be
- LIVE AS WHO YOU ARE!

- **Honor Your Redeemer**

- But how?

*...if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deed, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile... – 1 Peter 1:17 ESV*

- What does Peter mean?
- Are we to fear God because He is a judge?
  - He is an impartial and completely fair judge
  - In Greek, it carries the idea of approval or esteem, not disapproval or condemnation

*“Fearing God entails more than simply respecting or honoring God or holding him in high esteem. On the one hand it is a holistic idea, paired with loving God. To love God is to fear him, and to fear him is to love him. On the other hand, fearing God draws more on the concept of God as the impartial Judge who cannot and will not tolerate sin. Such a view of the holiness of God creates within his children a healthy fear of defying God.” – Jim Samara, James, 1 & 2 Peter, and Jude, Teach the Text Commentary Series*

- Fear of the Lord is not a checklist of things we must do
- It's a reverence for what has been done for us
- It's a high regard for our identity in Christ
- We place ultimate value on our holy status
- Becoming God's possession did not come without a cost

*“You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ. Like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.” – 1 Peter 1:18-19 ESV*

*“You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price.” – 1 Corinthians 6:20 ESV*

- We belong to God as adopted children, not property
  - We are heirs to an imperishable, undefiled, and unfading inheritance
- How do you honor your redeemer?
  - By emulating His character
  - By acting like his child
  - And displaying your new Identity and character

*“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. Behold the new has come.” – 2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV*

- LIVE LIKE IT!

- **Love Your Brothers**

- Why would this be important?

*“Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart.” – 1 Peter 1:22 ESV*

- You have been transformed by the truth of Jesus Christ
- Therefore, sincerely love others
- And we don’t get to choose who to love

*“You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven.” – Matthew 5:43-45 NLT*

- Why do we need to love this way?
- What does this have to do with holiness?

*“We love because He first loved us. If anyone says, “I love God,” but hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And we have this commandment from Him: Whoever loves God must love his brother as well.” – 1 John 4:19-21 ESV*

*“...since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for*

*“All flesh is like grass  
and all its glory like the flower of grass.  
The grass withers,  
and the flower falls,  
but the word of the Lord remains forever.” – 1 Peter 1:23 ESV*

- “Born again” – born from above
- “Imperishable seed” – not perishable
- “Living and abiding word” – not dead
  - Peter focusing them on the work of God
  - The everlasting promises of God

“Peter’s point is profound: the imperishable word of God (1:23,25), which is the gospel message of Jesus’s imperishable blood (1:18-19), is preached to perishable people (1:24), causing them to be born again into an imperishable inheritance (1:4) through their imperishable faith (1:7).” – Jim Samra, *James, 1 & 2 Peter, and Jude, Teach the Text Commentary Series*

- **Discussion questions**

Why does Peter put so much emphasis on the imperishable over the perishable? What is the point he’s trying to make?

According to Peter, “be holy” means live as who you are, NOT become something you hope to be. Do you find this liberating and encouraging?

If you were to examine your life, what would it reveal about where your hope lies?





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SPRING SERIES 2022 – WEEK 4 HOMEWORK

**WEEK 4 – 1 Peter 2:1-12: Grow Up and Stand Out!**

Peter had high expectations of the people to whom he wrote. They had been set apart by God and they represented God as His chosen people. Peter reminded them that they were sojourners and exiles on this earth and, as such, had an obligation to live distinctively different lives as a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and as a people for God's own possession.

The real issue here is identity. They had a God-ordained obligation to live in such a way that their behavior reflected their new identity as God's children. Their spiritual growth was non-optional. And their position as royal priests of God came with weighty responsibilities.

The recipients of Peter's letter were wrestling with the realities of living in a culture that stood opposed to everything in which they believed. And while many of their trials were external in nature, they were also suffering from unexpected internal battles that left them demoralized and even doubting their salvation. These inner and outer battles were beginning to take their toll.

Peter's goal for his audience was their ongoing spiritual maturity, fueled by constant feeding on the truth of Scripture and the promises of God it contains. At their salvation, they had gotten a taste of God's goodness. Now, it was time to drink in all the goodness that God's imperishable seed could provide.

- Read 1 Peter 2:1-12. Write down any thoughts that jump out at you from these verses.

- Now, take some time to read pages 25-32 of Ken's Devotionary™ on 1 Peter.

- Look closely at Paul at verse two. What do you think Peter means when he talks about “spiritual milk”?

Why would Peter suggest that these people needed to grow up into their salvation? Had they missed something when they placed their faith in Christ?

- Go back and look at verses 4-8. Why do you think Paul gone from talking about infants and milk to a spiritual house and the priesthood? What does this change in analogies seem to indicate and why is it important?

Peter is quoting from Isaiah 28:16 and Psalm 118:22. Read these verses and write down why you think Peter is weaving these two Old Testament passages into his letter? What point is he trying to make to them?

As members of the priesthood of God, what kind of sacrifices do you think these people were expected to make?

How do the following passages help answer the previous above?

Romans 12:1-2

Romans 6:12-13

- Read verses 9-10. Paraphrase these verses by putting them in your own words. Try to capture their meaning and make it practical for your own life.
- Read verses 11-12. What role do the reminders in verses 9-10 have to do with fulfilling the mandate Peter lays down in verses 11-12?