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SPRING SERIES 2022 – WEEK 4

1 Peter 2:1-12: Grow Up and Stand Out!

*Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk
so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation.*

Cry out for this nourishment, now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness.

– 1 Peter 2:2-3 NLT

- **Grow Up!**

- Peter expects his readers to **mature**
- Spiritual growth is **non-optional**
- It's an **expectation**, not a **suggestion**
- Failure to grow would be **abnormal**
- But **maturity** isn't what makes us **holy**

*"You must **be holy** because **I am holy**."* – 1 Peter 1:16 NLT

- It is not, *"You must **become** holy..."*
- It is, *"You must **be** what God has **deemed** you to be: holy..."*

*So **put away** all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.* – 1 Peter 2:1 ESV

- "So" – another transitional word tying two passages together
Since...
 - ...God has set you apart (made you holy) – 1:16
 - ...you have been ransomed – 1:18
 - ...your faith and hope are in God – 1:21
 - ...your souls have been purified – 1:22
 - ...you have been born again – 1:23

put away – ἀποτίθημι – *apotithēmi* (ah-pah-tith-ah-mee)

– put off, cast aside, get rid of

*...**get rid of all** evil behavior. **Be done with all** deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech.* – 1 Peter 2:1 NLT

- They were to have a **new identity** marked by a **new lifestyle**
- We have been born again (from above)
- We have been made new

...anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! – 2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT

- The old life is a thing of the past
- It no longer represents who you are
- It has not been **eradicated**, but its hold on you has been **eliminated**
- But we must break all ties to it

*...**put off** (*apotithēmi*) your former way of life, your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires.* – Ephesians 4:22 BSB

*...each of you must **put off** (*apotithēmi*) falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor.* – Ephesians 4:25 BSB

*...you must **put aside** (*apotithēmi*) all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.* – Colossians 3:8 BSB

*...**get rid of** (*apotithēmi*) all moral filth and every expression of evil, and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save your souls.* – James 1:21 BSB

“leave behind” or “discard”

*...let us **strip off every weight that slows us down**, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.* – Hebrews 12:1 NLT

- We are to discard all...
 - ...**deceit** – craftiness or intentional deceit
 - ...**hypocrisy** – living falsely or deceptively
 - ...**jealousy** – envy or jealous ill-will
 - ...**unkind speech** – backbiting, defamation

- Grow up into salvation

*Like newborn infants, **long for** the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.* – 1 Peter 2:2-3 ESV

“...the focus of “salvation” here is the future deliverance of these who have been born anew and protected by God’s power.” – NET Bible Study Notes

*...he [God] has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith **for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*** – 1 Peter 1:3-5 ESV

*Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, **obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*** – 1 Peter 1:9 ESV

- A **taste** of salvation
Literally: “Enjoyed the flavor of”
To have tried something and found it good

“The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult; and left untried.” – G.K. Chesterton, *What’s Wrong With the World*

Salvation is **great tasting** and **good for you**, too!

*...you have been born again...through the living and abiding **word** (λόγος, **logos**) of God.* – 1 Peter 1:23 ESV

*...pure **spiritual** (λογικός, **logikos**) milk.* – 1 Peter 2:2 ESV

- **Spiritual food** that produces **spiritual growth**

*But Jesus told him, “No! The Scriptures say, ‘People do not live by bread alone, but by **every word that comes from the mouth of God.**’”* – Matthew 4:4 NLT

- God’s Word is the key to our **salvation**
- And it’s the key to **our sanctification**

“Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.” – John 17:17 ESV

*...we never stop thanking God that when you received **his message** from us, you didn’t think of our words as mere human ideas. You accepted what we said as **the very word of God** – which, of course, it is. And **this word continues to work in you who believe.*** – 1 Thessalonians 2:13 NLT

- **Living stones**

As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture:

*“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” – 1 Peter 2:4-6 ESV*

- From milk to masonry
 - A shift in metaphor
 - But a continued focus on the **community**, not the **individual**
 - Newborn **infants** (plural)
 - Living **stones** (plural)

*“you **yourselves** like living stones...”*



*“are **being built up** (together)...”*



*“as a **spiritual house**...”*

- You can’t build a house with a single stone

“...it was together that they were to ‘grow up into salvation (1 Peter 2:2). The walk of faith is not a solo sport, but a community event in which God’s people engage in a symbiotic and mutually beneficial relationship with one another.” – Ken Miller, Devotionary™ on 1 Peter

*You are citizens along with all of God’s holy people. You are members of God’s family. **Together, we are his house**, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. **We are carefully joined together in him**, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. – Ephesians 2:19-21 NLT*

- A chosen and precious cornerstone
 - Jesus fulfills Isaiah 28:16 & Psalm 118:22
 - He is the cornerstone, **not the house itself**
 - The cornerstone is the builder’s guide
 - It provides a sure foundation for the rest of the structure
- A rock of offense
 - Jesus fulfills Isaiah 8:14

*...he will become **a sanctuary** and **a stone of offense** and **a rock of stumbling** to both houses of Israel, a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.*

- The Jews “stumbled” over Jesus
- But many Gentiles believed

They were disobedient, so God made salvation available to the Gentiles. But he wanted his own people to become jealous and claim it for themselves. Now if the Gentiles were enriched because the people of Israel turned down God’s offer of salvation, think how much greater a blessing the world will share when they finally accept it. – Romans 11:11-12 NLT

- **Stand Out!**

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. – 1 Peter 2:9 ESV

- Peter wanted to remind them of their unique status as God’s children
- He was using the same terminology that God had used of Israel

*...you are a holy people, who belong to the LORD your God. Of all the people on earth, the LORD your **God has chosen** you to be his own special treasure. – Deuteronomy 7:6 NLT*

*...you will be my **kingdom of priests**, my **holy nation**. – Exodus 19:6 NLT*

- This was their **new reality**

“As ambassadors, they were not to compromise their divine commission by taking on the qualities of their host country. But at the same time, Peter didn’t want them to live aloof and isolated lives. They were not to separate themselves from the “riff-raff” of this world, looking down on them in judgment and pride. No, Peter told them to “Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors.” – Ken Miller, Devotionary™ on 1 Peter

- **Discussion questions**

It seems that Israel failed to live up to their status as God’s set-apart people and His royal priesthood. How can we hope to do any better?

Why do we find it so hard to “discard” all the old baggage of our past life that weighs us down?

Why does Peter encourage his readers to live godly lives among their unbelieving peers?
What would motivate us to take this kind of risk??



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SPRING SERIES 2022 – WEEK 5 HOMEWORK

WEEK 5 – 1 Peter 2:13-25: Be Subject...

In this week's lesson, we enter some difficult and unpleasant territory. In these verses, Peter sets up where he will be going in chapter 3. It's all about the practicality of their faith. As subjects of the Kingdom of God, living as aliens and exiles on earth, they were to subject themselves to every human institution. This seems to be a contradiction. If this world is not our home, then why are we expected to submit ourselves to its leaders and institutions?

These people were wrestling with the reality of being kingdom citizens while still having to live in the here-and-now. They were experiencing what it was like to be God's ambassadors, charged with the task of living in a "foreign land" and representing their sovereign King. And as His ambassadors, they were expected to represent Him well.

If subjection meant suffering, so be it. Jesus suffered under the hands of the Sanhedrin and the Romans. So, why shouldn't we? But if a believer must choose between subjection to earthly authorities and submission to the will of God, the choice is clear. If earthly authorities demand compliance that stands in the way of obedience to the call of Christ, the decision is a no-brainer. We must obey God rather than any human authority. For Peter, that meant he was willing to suffer imprisonment for proclaiming Christ.

- Read 1 Peter 2:13-25. Write down any thoughts that jump out at you from these verses.

- Set aside some time to read pages 33-44 of Ken's Devotionalary™ on 1 Peter.

- When you read the words, “Be subject to...,” what immediately comes into your mind?

Peter indicates that his readers were to be subject to every human institution, and that would have included the Roman government. What kind of reaction does that stir up in your own heart and why?

Go back and look more closely at verses 13-17. What reasons does Peter give for subjecting ourselves to every human institution? What should be our ultimate motivation, and why is this important?

- Now read verses 14-19. Here, Peter addresses those within the congregations to whom he wrote who were slaves or household servants. Knowing that these people probably had no say in their status as slaves, how do Paul’s words come across to you?

Peter makes it clear that these people were suffering, sometimes even when they did the right thing. But what words of encouragement does he provide to them?

How would you respond to Peter’s words if you were in the same unfortunate position as these people?

- Read verses 20-25. Peter puts a lot of emphasis on the suffering of Jesus. Why would he think that this might be beneficial to this particular segment of his audience?

What do these verses reveal about Jesus that you find to be helpful or encouraging?