

Holy Living

1 Peter 1:13-19

¹³ Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.¹⁵ But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶ for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."¹⁷ Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. ¹⁸ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

Longing for Home

- ? Why is context so important when discerning scripture?
- ? How would you respond to the following? "The Bible is a good book but it isn't relevant today as it was written not for our context and culture?"
- ? Peter begins this section with an important word. What is it? What previous idea is he building on?¹
- ? What does it mean to be sober-minded? Does it harm the reputation of Christ if you fail to heed this command? Why or why not.

Living Sacrifice

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Hebrews 12:2

Evangelism as Exiles

I believe one of the greatest hinderances to evangelism is fear. Or more accurately, a lack of fear. – Elliot Clark

Therefore...

1. **Conformity masquerades the mission of the church. 1 Peter 1:13-17**
 - ? What does it mean to be "set apart?" How do you balance this command with 1 Corinthians 9:22. "I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some."
 - ? What is reverent fear? To whom are we to be afraid and why? Why is it relevant to the Christian walk?
 - ? Why do you think Peter refers to God as both Father and Judge, rather than just one or the other?²
 - ? God is both Father and impartial judge. Is it harder for you to identify with one of these ideas than the other? Why? How does your focus need to shift to bring these two views of God into balance?³

¹ 1 Peter: A Living Hope in Christ. Jen Wilkin.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

Galatians 2:15-21

15 We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; 16 yet we know that a person is not justified[a] by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. 17 But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! 18 For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor. 19 For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. 20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. 21 I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness[b] were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.

2. The Price for transformation is too high for conformity. 1 Pet. 1:18-21

- ? Why doesn't McDonalds corporate allow it's restaurants to serve Burger King Whoppers? How is this relevant to the church today and why do we allow whoppers when the king called for a Big Mac? (Hint: Your Life was paid by a steep price.)
- ? What accounts for Peter's choice of address when speaking of Jesus? What does it reveal about his view of the One he left everything to follow?⁴
- ? Read Galatians 2:15-21 below. What is meant by "Then Christ died for no purpose?" How could I "nullify" His sacrifice in my Christian walk? Does this mean I would lose my salvation if I didn't live as a "living sacrifice?" Why or why not?

3. Our Lives are powered through the Living Word. 1 Peter 1:22-25

- ? How does the Word of God "empower" us to live transformed lives?
- ? How does 1:22 say that our souls become purified? Is soul-purification merely the result of praying and receiving?⁵
- ? What specific form of obedience is Peter pointing his readers toward in 1:22? How is this a timely reminder for his Original audience?⁶
- ? What two words are used to describe the Word of God in 1:23? How does each expand our understanding of the value of God's word?
- ? What perishable things are most likely to demand your attention and affections? How does a focus on those things diminish your ability to love others earnestly from a pure heart?
- ? How does your transformed, redeemed, eternal life compel you to learn intently?
- ? We've been purchased to give hope away. How can we give away hope?

Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.¹² For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Hebrews 4:11-13

"To speak of the 'deeper life' is not to speak of anything deeper than simple New Testament religion. The 'deeper life' is deeper only because the average Christian life is tragically shallow.

-A.W. Tozer

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.