

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JULY 2ND - 3RD, 2022 // BOOK OF 1 PETER

PURE MILK (1 PETER 2:1-3) THEREFORE

The Word of God was the content of Peter's preaching. **The life-changing power of the Word must affect our lives as Christians.**

- We should look more and more like Christ. We are to rid ourselves of all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all slander.
- Are we growing closer to Christ or walking away from Christ? **There's no in between.**

NEWBORN INFANTS

In the same way that a baby longs for milk, all believers need to long for pure milk: prayer, reading the Bible, obedience, and authentic community. If we don't crave pure milk, it may be because we're consuming other "milk."

- **We need to evaluate everything we are taking into our minds and hearts. Some have forgotten that the "Lord is good."**

A SPIRITUAL HOUSE (1 PETER 2:4-10) LIVING STONE

The churches in Asia Minor must see themselves as "living stones," connected to the "Living Stone" (2:4). The church is a "spiritual house," that is, the temple of God.

- We have to be connected to Jesus and the foundation of our spiritual house has to be Him. **If we try to use any other foundation, it will eventually fail.**

A STUMBLING BLOCK

People who reject Christ will continually stumble and fall over who He is. People will reject Him or "Christians" will reshape Him to fit in with their idea of God.

- Jesus is either the most wonderful news, or the most offensive. **Do we share about the biblical Jesus, or do we share a watered-down version of Him?**

DIFFICULT JOURNEY

Believers can be discouraged in the midst of a culture that stumbles over Jesus and then persecutes any who embrace Christ.

- Peter encourages believers with some incredible truths: "a chosen race, royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His possession." **We acquire an immense new value because we belong to God!**

PROCLAIM ABOUT HIM

If our story is, "the one who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light," why in the world would we keep this to ourselves?

- **How we live in our day-to-day lives matter.** A lost world is watching and looking for hope. Are we the church outside of these four walls? God can still call people out of darkness into His marvelous light!

STRANGERS (1 PETER 2:11-17) STRANGERS

As temporary residents in this world, we should show a certain detachment from the world. We can't isolate from the world, but we are to abstain from "sinful desires."

- **Our sinful desires wage war against our soul. This is a big deal. Keep fighting the battle. Don't fight alone. Remember, this is not our forever home.**

COUNTERCULTURAL

Our culture emphasizes the desire to "express ourselves" and "live our truth or best life." The Bible's message is to "deny ourselves" and "live a life that honors God."

- **Countercultural living is not the goal of the Christian; rather, countercultural living is the result of following Jesus and living according to His Word.**

"SUBMIT AS FREE PEOPLE...AS GOD'S SLAVE."

We have become prideful and don't like the word submit. We are to submit to authorities and government **unless it involves actions that are contrary to the Word of God.**

- When we humble ourselves, submit to God, and understand that Christ freed us, it will change our perspective on authority. **A life of humility is liberating.**

GOVERNMENT

Some of us spend way too much time, money, and energy on politics. **Christians need to have more face-to-face conversations** and share about Jesus.

- Our leaders are **humans made in the image of God.** We are to **submit** (v 13) and **respect** (v 17), but we **do not worship** them.

KING JESUS

Some of us think that if we only get the right candidate in office, then we can have "heaven on earth." **There is one heavenly King,** and His rule isn't subject to a majority vote. **Jesus is still on the throne. Live like we believe it.**

- Until He returns or calls us home, "Honor everyone. Love the brothers and sisters. Fear God. Honor the emperor" (v 17).

THE EXAMPLE (1 PETER 2:18-25) WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US?

Following Jesus isn't cool and it isn't easy. It's only going to get more difficult, even in the workplace.

Christians should honor God with how we work.

- Peter says that if we are mistreated due to our faith, praise God! If we receive discipline because we aren't Christlike in how we work, it doesn't bring God glory.

JESUS' FOOTSTEPS

Where Jesus stepped, we step, and His steps take us through the path of unjust suffering. **We're going to get mistreated. We need to follow Jesus' example.**

- He did not sin (v 22), He did not verbally lash out or threaten those who caused His unjust suffering (v 23), and He trusted God (v 23).

THE CROSS

We're pleased that Jesus bore His cross for us, but **we hope to avoid bearing a cross as we follow Him.** Suffering is part of following Jesus. We need to deny ourselves and take up our cross daily (Luke 9:23).

- At moments of unjust suffering, we discover who we worship. Will we respond like Jesus so others can see Jesus?

BECAUSE OF CHRIST...

- **We all have access to a relationship with the Creator.** He wants to talk to us.
- We no longer have to live in darkness, but He can call us into His marvelous light.
- Ordinary people like us can have immense value! We can have a new identity: a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation.

IF WE FOLLOW CHRIST...

- How we live in our day-to-day lives matter. **When people look at us, do they see Jesus?**
- We should be countercultural in all areas of life: relationships, work, school, politics, and our response to trials.
- Life will get difficult. This life is temporary. **Even if everything is taken away from us in this life, we get Jesus in the next life.**

ARE WE IN OR OUT?

- Will we consume pure milk or consume the world's milk?
- Will we abstain from sinful desires or feed our sinful nature and follow our heart?
- Will we humble ourselves and surrender to Jesus or will pride get in the way?
- **Do we want to follow Jesus or not? There's no in between.**