

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

OCTOBER 9TH, 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. James tells Christians to be doers of the word and not hearers only (James 1:22) 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 the pure milk of the Word of God so we can grow up into our salvation. 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. Many of us are being disciplined by our culture.**

RID YOURSELVES OF ALL...

"Rid" (or "cast off") is a forceful phrase—it's a term that implies the violent action we must take if we're to be free from these things: malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander.

- Until we make **the conscious decision to "rid" ourselves of these five sins of attitude and speech, our spiritual growth will stall, and we'll stay stuck.**

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

A SPIRITUAL HOUSE

As we grow into our salvation, getting rid of sinful attitudes and actions and desiring Christ more and more, we will naturally be drawn closer to one another—**becoming a spiritual house and a royal priesthood.**

- We live in a **very individualistic culture** and it's difficult for us to think we belong to something bigger than ourselves.

LIVING STONE

As we come to Christ, a living stone, **we are transformed into living stones.** We're surrendering our lives to become stones, added to God's spiritual house, the Church.

- 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 fall.**

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 TO EVERY HUMAN AUTHORITY

We obey the government of the land "because of the Lord." Since the governments have a rightful authority from God (Romans 13), we're bound to obey them—unless, of course, it contradicts God's law.

- Then we are commanded to obey God before man (Acts 4:19).

GOVERNMENT

The reason we have a hard time honoring "the emperor" of our day is not because they're asking us to do something contrary to God's law—it's because **we disagree with their policies and don't like them.**

- Our leaders are **humans made in the image of God.** We are to **submit** and **respect**, 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)

NON-CHRISTIAN WORKING ENVIRONMENT

"Household slaves" were domestic workers who were employed by wealthy families in the Roman empire.

- If you were a Christian working for a Roman family, chances are you spent most of your time in a "non-Christian" working environment. Peter gives specific instructions for this situation.

SUBMIT REVERENTLY

These workers are to submit to their masters reverently—**not just the good and gentle ones, but also the ones who were cruel.**

- It's easy when our employer isn't a jerk—but what if we have a boss that seems to delight in "picking on" us?
- What if they're singling us out because we are a Christian?

LET'S BE HONEST

We first must make sure we're not playing the "persecution" card.

- **Disciplinary action in the workplace when we've done something wrong isn't persecution.** But when we're doing good because of a "consciousness of God" and we suffer for it, it brings about the favor of God.

JESUS' EXAMPLE

Jesus is our example when we endure unjust punishment. He didn't commit any sin and He was never deceitful. When He was insulted, He never insulted others in return.

- **Because Jesus was willing to suffer without retaliation,** our sins were atoned for "**in his body on the tree**" (vs. 24a).

THE SHEPHERD AND OVERSEER

If not for Jesus' patient endurance under the persecution of the ungodly, we would still be going astray. But because of His work for us, we have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls.

- So how do we endure when we're persecuted unjustly? **We follow Jesus**—we don't retaliate or practice sinful deceit.

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.**