

# THE FIRST EPISTLE OF PETER

TO THE CHURCH OF THE DISPERSION THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

## 1 PETER CHAPTER 1:22-25

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM-954      JULY 8, 2018

### THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

### **“The Christian Life” – Part 3**

The Ministry of The Grace of God Toward All Those Who Are Anchored in Christ.

### SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Grace, Holiness, Waiting, Sanctification, Maturity**

### **Introduction to the Text: 1 Peter 1:22-25**

#### 1 Peter 1:22-25

:22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, 23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, 24 because “All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, 25 But the word of the Lord endures forever.” Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

**If you were to find yourself on a deserted island,  
And there stumble across a Bible,  
you would quickly notice that it is divided up or  
sectioned off into two revelations.**

#### **The First or the Old Testament**

**Could be summed up in a few words by saying:**

**“This Old Testament reveals the righteousness of God and His invitation to mankind to become righteous himself in order that mankind might live again.”**

**Reading along you would come to...**

#### **The Last or the New Testament**

**Could be summed up in a few words by saying:**

**“This New Testament reveals the absolute depravity of the human nature, but God, in the Person of Jesus Christ, came to us, suffered for us, died for us and rose for us – that we might be His very own people.”**

**Such an act, such a God, such love has its personal requirements. And that is - - we must never read into what God has said and we must always let what He has said read into us.”  
( What do we expect to happen when we pick up the Bible? )**

### **The Christian Life**

Here in 1 Peter we have been looking at a Study entitled “The Christian life”  
And if there’s anything on earth that should be known to be supernatural, it is to be **The Christian Life!**

**After all, it’s the Christian who makes the claim that he knows God.**

It is the Christian who claims that the Holy Spirit lives inside of him. And it is the Christian who claims that when he dies he’s going to heaven!

**These are very serious claims – wonderful if true.**

The unbelieving world had a disobedient culture that could easily view these claims as a form of insanity – that “someone hears God speaking to them.”

**It’s frankly too much for the world to know.**

### **The Christian Life**

**1.) Love, loves to obey**

**vs. 22**

**:22** Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,

### **The Christian Life Loves to Obey**

**1a.) To obey is to know the truth**

**vs. 22a**

**:22a** Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth

“Since you have...”

this is not an accolade to those who completed a self-improvement course – it is an acknowledgement of the Result of One Having Come To Christ.

Peter Introduces us to the concept of a “Self-Test” mode of our Christian reality.

**How can our souls be purified?  
And isn't it impossible for me cleanse myself?**

**Psalms 14:3**

They have all turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is none who does good, No, not one.

**1 Corinthians 6:9-11**

Do you not know that the unrighteous **will not** inherit the kingdom of God? **Do not be deceived.** Neither fornicators (sexual immoral), nor idolaters (lovers of material things), nor adulterers (someone who is married and is sexually involved with one who is single), nor homosexuals, (a catamite or a male acting out the role of “the soft” or female) **NOR sodomites, 10** nor thieves (klepto, to lift with the fingers. to steal), **NOR COVETOUS** (when more is not enough), nor drunkards, nor revilers (an abuser of others), nor extortioners (to use people to advance yourself) will inherit the kingdom of God. **11** And such were some of you. But you were **washed**, but you were **sanctified**, but you were **justified** in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

**Isaiah 55:6-7**

Seek the Lord while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. 7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

**Purified** grk: hagnizo; to be impure and to become purified, to be unclean and to be cleansed from all defilement.

**Psalms 119:9-12**

How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You. Blessed are You, O Lord! Teach me Your statutes."

**Souls** grk: yuch/ psuche; from 5594; breath, the soul: —everyone\*(1), heart(m)(2), heartily(1), life(36), lives(7), mind(m)(1), minds(m)(1), person(1), persons(3), soul(33), souls(14), suspense\*(1), thing(m)(1).

**Obeying** grk: hupakoe; to be “becoming obedient”. to learn that obeying is to live a better life.

**Hebrews 12:22-24a NLT**

**You have come** to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to countless thousands of angels in a joyful gathering. 23 **You have come** to the assembly of God’s firstborn children, whose names are written in heaven. **You have come** to God himself, who is the judge over all things. **You have come** to the spirits of the righteous ones in heaven who have now been made perfect. 24 **You have come** to Jesus,

**The Christian Life Loves to Obey**

1b.) To obey is to be under His influence

vs. 22b

:22b through the Spirit  
in sincere love of the brethren,

This is a sovereign work of God in us.  
Peter says “Through the Holy Spirit”

**Meaning.....**

The Christ-Follower is given a type of love,  
a love that is not of this world.

**Sadly, it is a love rarely seen or experienced today – it is**

**Sincere** grk: anupokritos; unmixed or un-hypocritical, unfeigned: truly organic or authentically genuine.

In another place, the word sincere is translated “without wax” or without filler. It implies that the Christian does not look for what he can get from you – there is no angle or hidden agenda.  
No manipulation to the “love connect”.

## “The Word We Confess Must Be Supported By The Life Protest”

### James 1:22-25, 27

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. **23** For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; **24** for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. **25** But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does., **27** Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

## The Christian Life Loves to Obey

1c.) To obey is to be empowered by love

vs. 22c

:**22c** love one another  
fervently with a pure heart,

**love** grk: **a'ga'pa'o**. the highest form and the greatest expression of love. The kind of love attributed to God. An unconditional love. A love that gives without expecting anything in return. = the divine love of God.

**Infatuation** will mimic agape love anywhere from an hour up to a few months – but it cannot endure over time...

This love taught here is a love that occurs  
or is birthed out of - obedience to God.  
( **it's not a convenient love or a recreational love** )

It means: (#1) looking for the best in someone else (#2) Drawing out of another person the acts uncharacteristic to them. (#3) Esteeming them higher in value than yourself.

**The Christian cannot be certain of the reality and depth of his love** for Christ until he comes face-to-face with the Commandments of Christ and he is forced to decide what to do about them. Then he will know where his loyalties lie.

**John 14:23-24**

Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. **24** He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Fathers who sent Me.

**fervently** grk: to be burning or ablaze with love. To stretch out the arm or to extend the flame. To spread the fire or flame of God's love to another.

Like rubbing your hands together in "fellowship" there is a heat that is generated, so a Christian with Christ in actual worship creates fervency which God uses to ignite others.

**1 John 3:16-17**

By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. **17** But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?  
(the language demands only one answer – it does not)

**Romans 12:19-21**

Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. **20** Therefore "*if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.*" **21** Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**It is psychologically impossible to say with the mouth that we love God while at the same time yield our bodies to the very things that go against His word.**

**Be careful of those things that tend to "cool the heart".**

Today there's a great danger to the church of singing one thing but doing the other. We sing "**A Mighty Fortress is our God**" But why are we so weak?  
We sing "**Our God Reigns**" but is he on the throne of our hearts?

**pure heart** grk: ka'tha'ros; made clean. To be made innocent.

**John 15:3**

You are already (ka'tha'ros) **clean**  
because of the word which I have spoken to you.

**Matthew 5:8**

Blessed are the (ka'tha'ros) **pure** in heart, for they shall see God.

**This word demands that the Christian's new motive**

in life is "toward others" or "for others" or "others first"

**It means that my new heart is void of**

**'self' or 'me' or 'mine' pursuits.**

**Now this is telling in our day.**

**Matthew 24:12**

Because lawlessness will abound,  
the love of many will grow cold.

**Luke 21:34-35**

"But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with (in the name of "Im a Christian" these are being allowed) carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. **35** For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.

**Isolationism and protectionism**  
are death nails to the Professed-Christian Life.

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*End of Study*

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