

Love Fervently

1 Peter 1:22-2:12

We closed last week with Peter admonishing believers to be holy because God is holy and reminding us that we have been redeemed by the precious blood of Christ. Now he will call believers to live in harmony with one another.

Read 1 Peter 1:22-2:3.

1. What instruction is given to believers in verse 22, and what reason is given for doing what is asked?

2. **THINK:** Using the context of verses 14-19 in chapter 1, what do you think Peter was saying about these believers when he said, "Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth..."? (2 Corinthians 7:1)

3. Peter says we are purified by obeying the truth. What *truth* is he speaking of? (John 17:17)

4. How does the Word purify us?

5. Our hearts are purified by the Word, and what other powerful force? (1 Peter 1:22)

6. Read the following verses and record the Holy Spirit's role in purifying us.

John 16:13

1 Corinthians 2:10-13

Galatians 5:16

Titus 3:5

Fervently - earnestly, fervently, intensely (from a verb which means to “stretch out the hand”, thus it means to be stretched out - earnest, resolute, tense.)

Love - to have a preference for, wish well to, regard the welfare of

Pure - free from corrupt desire, from sin and guilt; free from every admixture of what is false, sincere

Heart - of things done from the heart, i.e., cordially or sincerely, truly

7. **THINK:** Why do you think it is important for believers to love one another with fervency and a pure heart?

8. What did Jesus have to say about loving one another? (John 13:34-35; 15:12-13; 17:20-23)

9. What makes it possible for believers to love like this? (1 Peter 1:23)

Corruptible - perishable; perishing

Incorruptible - not liable to corruption or decay, imperishable; immortal

All of us have been born from a corruptible seed (man), but when we are born again, we are born of a seed that is incorruptible. That seed being Jesus, the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us.

10. Compare and contrast that which comes from a corruptible seed (flesh) versus that which is incorruptible (the Word of God) in verses 23-25.

Flesh	The Word of God

11. How does knowing that the Word of God endures forever motivate you to obey the Truth?

12. Skim over all of chapter one and record everything chapter one teaches about God/Jesus/the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

God the Father	Jesus Christ	The Holy Spirit	The Word of God

13. “Therefore,” we should do what? (1 Peter 2:1-2b)

14. What reason does Peter give for laying aside these things and desiring the Word?

15. **THINK:** What do the behaviors, listed in verse one, have in common? Why do you think Peter mentioned desiring the Word and these particular behaviors together?

16. **THINK HARDER:** How do you think these behaviors and desiring the Word relate to believers’ love for one another?

<i>Desire</i> - to long for; to yearn; to dote upon, i.e., intensely crave
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Do you intensely crave the Word of God? If not, pray. Ask the Lord to give you a hunger for the Word. Jesus said, “If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”

17. Make a list of all the things asked of believers in 1 Peter 1:22-2:3. Then record how you will seek to apply them to your life and what will motivate you to do so.

Read 1 Peter 2:4-10.

18. Read 1 Peter 2:4 in multiple versions, then record who is being spoken of below.
(Note that the words “as to” are italicized and were not part of the original text.)

Who is coming?

(_____) coming to Him (_____) ~~as to~~ a living stone
(_____), rejected indeed by men (_____), but chosen by God
and precious (_____).

19. Jesus is the Living Stone, who was rejected by men but chosen by God and is precious. Read the following verses and record everything you learn about the connection between Jesus and Him being a stone and how that “stone” relates to us.

Acts 4:10-11

Ephesians 2:19-20

20. What did Jesus say to Peter in Matthew 16:18?

And I also say to you that you are Peter (*Petros* meaning a piece of rock), and on this rock (*Petra* meaning a mass of rock) I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

- Matthew 16:18

21. **THINK:** Read Matthew 16:13-18. In the context of this passage, to whom or what do you think Jesus was referring when He said, “...on this rock I will build my church”? Share why you came to your conclusion.

22. **THINK HARDER:** Why do you think it may have been important to Peter to distinguish Jesus as the Living Stone, rejected by men but accepted by God?

23. What other living stones does Peter mention, and how are these living stones being used by God? (1 Peter 2:5)

Build up - to carry on the instruction begun by others

Spiritual House – a body of Christians (a church), as pervaded by the Spirit and power of God

Priesthood – the order or body of priests; so Christians are called, because they have access to God and offer not external but spiritual sacrifices

24. What is the purpose of this holy priesthood and spiritual house made up of living stones? (v. 5)

25. Read the following verses and record the spiritual sacrifices these verses speak of.
Psalm 141:2

Luke 22:42

Romans 12:1-2, 8:11-13

Hebrews 13:15

Revelation 22:12

26. Of the spiritual sacrifices mentioned above, which ones are the most difficult for you? For each one you list, pray and ask God what you can do this week to begin developing a spiritual discipline in each area. Be sure to record what the Lord shows you so you can hold yourself accountable.

Quoting Isaiah 28:16 in 1 Peter 2:6, Peter again clarifies that Jesus is the Chief Cornerstone. Jesus is the foundation on which the church is built, not himself.

27. What is the promise for those who believe on Him? (v. 6)

Shame – to suffer a repulse, or to have a hope that has been deceived; disappointed

28. Describe what you originally thought this verse meant and what it means now that you understand the use of the word *shame* in this verse.

Chosen – choice, select, i.e., the best of its kind or class, excellent, preeminent

Precious – held in honor, prized

29. Record the words that come before and after the word *but* in verses 7-8.

BEFORE	TRANSITIONAL WORD	AFTER
Therefore, to you who believe...	BUT (v. 7)	To those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone, and..."

Stumbling – used figuratively of Christ Jesus, with regard to whom it especially annoyed and offended the Jews that His words, deeds, career, and particularly His ignominious death on the cross quite failed to correspond to their preconceptions respecting the Messiah; hence, they despised and rejected Him and by that crime brought upon themselves woe and punishment

30. How does one stumble over this Chief Cornerstone? (v. 8)

31. Jesus is precious to those who believe but is a Rock of Offense to those who reject Him. Take some time to record why Jesus is precious to you.

32. Record everything that describes the characteristics of a person both before and after they believe in Christ for salvation. (v. 9-10)

Before: _____

After: _____

Purpose: _____

Read 1 Peter 2:11-12. As Christians, we are pilgrims in this world, with our citizenship and eternal home being in Heaven.

33. **THINK:** Peter uses the word *war* to describe the fight necessary to confront and abstain from our fleshly lust. What do you think this war looks like in the life of a believer?

34. **THINK HARDER:** The word *Gentile* in verse 12 is synonymous with “unbelievers.” Why do you think it is important that our conduct be honorable among unbelievers? How can our honorable and dishonorable conduct affect an unbeliever?

35. Review 1 Peter 2:4-12 and record everything these verses teach you about our triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) and any positive examples you should follow.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit	Positive Example to follow

A Closer Look at What it Means to be Born Again

1 Peter 1:23

The term "born again" is a piece of Christian jargon that can be confusing without context. Telling someone, "You must be born again!" might sound strange to someone unfamiliar with the phrase. Nevertheless, *since* "born again" appears in Scripture, it is an important concept to understand.

36. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, you have been born again. Read 1 Peter 1:23. Through what is a believer in Jesus Christ born again?

37. In a few words, share your conversion story – when you were *born again*.

In John 3, Nicodemus, a Jewish ruler, visits Jesus to inquire about who He was. Jesus then redirects the conversation to focus on Nicodemus and his destiny.

38. Read through John 3:1-8. How did Jesus define being born again?

39. According to John 3:3, what is the necessity of being born again?

The phrase translated “born again” can also be translated as “born from above.” Nicodemus had a real need. He needed a spiritual transformation that could only come from above. New birth, being born again, is an act of God whereby eternal life is imparted to the person who believes.

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So, how does the new birth come to be? Scripture offers a detailed outline of the steps required of this new birth, which is salvation, leading to the promise of everlasting life.

40. Read the following verses. What do they teach us about God and His plan for new birth?

John 3:16

1 Peter 1:3

2 Peter 3:9

41. Read the following verses and make notes about the salvation process, adding your personal experience and timeline if it applies.

Romans 6:23

Romans 10:9-10

Ephesians 2:8-9

42. Once we receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior, growing in Him is the next step. What promise is found in 2 Corinthians 5:17?

43. Read Romans 6:4. What is our responsibility once we have been born again?

44. Are you currently fulfilling this responsibility? Why or why not?

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins...

- Ephesians 2:1