

# **1<sup>st</sup> Peter**

Christian Life Assembly

Fall 2014

Jim Hoffman



# **Class Open House**

**10/17/14**

**Jim and Jackie's**

**6:00 PM**

**31 Stone Barn Road**

**Mechanicsburg, Pa**






## **Review from last week – what to fear.**

- We should fear having behaviors that are not in line with God's call to be holy.**
- We should fear anything in our lives that would declare that we are not trusting fully in the blood of Jesus and nothing else.**
- And we should fear ever living like what God offers is less satisfying than what the world offers.**





## 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:22-2:3

- **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.**
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## 1st Peter 1:22-2:3

- **Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, 2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.**



# 1st Peter 1:22-2:3

- We will now be given more commands that are germane to the Christian life.
- We were told previously to set our hope, or to ‘hope fully’ on the grace of God.
- We were told to fear having behaviors that are not in line with God’s call to be holy.
- We were told not to ‘discount’ the value of the ransom paid for us. ★




## 1st Peter 1:22-2:3

- **Now we are told to love each other fervently because we have born again, this time not of fleshly seed, but by an eternal seed.**
- **Since we will live with all other believers for all eternity we are called to love them.**
- **Why? We are commanded to, God loves them, and to do otherwise would be to deny our new nature.**





## 1st Peter 1:22-2:3

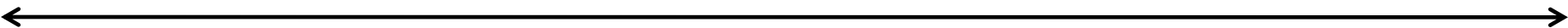
- **John 13:35** A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.
  - **1<sup>st</sup> Thes 4:9** But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another.
  - It would appear to me that we are commanded to love one another, *AND* we are also assisted by God to do so.
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## 1st Peter 1:22-2:3

- **So why is this a command?**
- **We sometimes imply that loving other believers is as natural and nearly automatic as loving a family member. (not entirely true)**
- **And, having experienced the new birth I know by experience that I have a preference for Christian relationships. (this is true)**
- **1<sup>st</sup> John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren.**






## 1st Peter 1:22-2:3

- So why is this a command?
- Because, at the end of the day, having a preference for Christians is not the same as loving them, *and love is a decision.*
- There are Christians that are hard to like – that is why we are commanded to love one another because we must choose to do the right actions.






## 1st Peter 1:22-2:3

- **Gal 6:10** Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.
  - We sometimes think we don't love others because we don't feel all warm and fuzzy towards them, but that is a false view of love.
  - **Love is about valuing others sufficiently that we do good for them and to them.**
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## 1st Peter 1:22-2:3

- **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:1** Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking.
  - **This too is a command – we don't look at this command and assume that it happens on it's own.**
  - **Here we more easily see that to put sin aside and resist it daily is a conscious choice – a decision wherein we choose to resist sin.**
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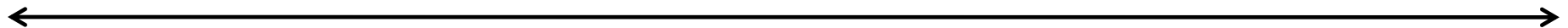
## 1st Peter 1:22-2:3

- **Just as we were commanded to love, we are also commanded to resist sin and sometimes the two intersect.**
  - **So I must ask – if we are commanded to love and commanded to put sin aside, then doesn't it follow that we are capable of doing both?**
  - **Would God really command us to do something that was beyond our ability to perform?**
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## 1st Peter 1:22-2:3

- But what do we know about ourselves?
- We know that we generally do the things that we want to do, or have to do – why do people miss church when it rains, but will go to work in the snow?
- So if I am capable of obeying God's commands to love and to put away sin – AND – if I know that I usually do what I want to do, or have to do – THEN - how can tie these two together into obedience? ★




# 1st Peter 1:22-2:3

- I must find some way to change what I want to do – I must some way to change my desires.
- Psalm 37:4 Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.
- Delight (Anag, Hebrew) – to make oneself pliable, moldable.
- So now the question becomes – how does one make himself 'pliable' so that God can change him? ★




## 1st Peter 1:22-2:3

- **Psalm 119:11 I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.**
  - **Psalm 119:104 Your commandments give me understanding; no wonder I hate every false way of life.**
  - **Psalm 119:165 Those who love your instructions have great peace and do not stumble.**
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## 1st Peter 1:22-2:3

- **Without apology, and without equivocation I say that in order to ‘delight’ in the Lord we MUST spend time in His word.**
  - **We progress in faith when we do, and we regress when we don’t – it is no more complicated than that.**
  - **Isaiah 58:14 Then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. KJV**
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## 1st Peter 1:22-2:3

- **I am not certain if spending time in the Word is the only way to change my desires, but it has proven to be the best way for me.**
  - **Worship, prayer, fellowship, and service are also effective in helping to change my desires, but in my experience these 4 are not as likely to happen without the first.**
  - **Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.**
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## 1st Peter 1:22-2:3

- **And now we come to the next command – “as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby”**
  - **I fear that too many read this and think, “that’s nice, but it isn’t me – for whatever reason I do not desire the word”.**
  - **And I say – why do we view this any differently than the two previous commands to love others and to resist sin?**
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## 1st Peter 1:22-2:3

- I think it is fair to say that there are some who have a natural affinity for the Bible and others who do not, but that does not change the command.
  - The picture is that of a newborn wanting milk – and what do newborns do when they want milk?
  - They are persistent – they are unrelenting in their pursuit of what they need to live.
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## 1st Peter 1:22-2:3

- And the command comes with a promise – “that you may grow by it”.
  - Do not say, “Others are interested in the Bible and I am not, that’s just the way I am.” You would not say that about resisting sin, would you?
  - It is axiomatic – *little time in the Word, little growth.*  
*Big time in the Word, big growth.*
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# 1st Peter 1:22-2:3

**Poem by John Bunyan**

- **Run, John, run, the law commands**
  - **But gives us neither feet nor hands,**
  - **Far better news the gospel brings:**
  - **It bids us fly and gives us wings.**
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## 1st Peter 1:22-2:3

- **Romans 8:4 He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit. 5 Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. 6 So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.**
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# Questions

