

Living as I truly am! – Studies in 1 Peter

1. Sunday - Introduction

Today a person's worth is often measured by what he/she has done, or what he/she is doing. So a great emphasis is placed on doing. We want to look at this week at doing because of what has already been done. To be challenged to living in accordance and in line with what we are! So questions come up today – Can a person be a Christian and live in a biblically defined immoral way? Does it matter what is biblically and morally correct if it does not align with what I feel?

Background: Peter, the apostle authors' two New Testament letters. The first is to strengthen and encourage, Christians who were scattered, throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, perhaps due to persecution. (1:6,7). Peter in this epistle reminds the believers of their character or what characterizes them and the conduct associated with this character.

We are going to look at five descriptions (there are more) Peter uses to describe Christians.

- 1) Born again – or begotten of God(1:3, 23)
- 2) Pilgrims – 2:11
- 3) Strangers – 2:11
- 4) A spiritual House 2:5
- 5) A chosen generation 2:9

Before Peter writes on these topics, the greatest comfort he give his audience is a reminder of the activity of divine persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit! We are elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, sanctification of the Spirit and sprinkling of the blood of Christ (1 Peter 1:2).

Born again by God's mercy, 1:3-4

Initiated by God's mercy, 1:3-4,

By the will of God John 1:13

By the Spirit of God John 3:5

By the word of God 1:23

- The need is for a new nature – the first is corrupted (to the core).

Redeemed, 1:18-19

- Released from bondage

faith and hope in God, 1:21

genuine family feelings, 1:22, 3:8, 4:8-9

obedient children, 1:14, 22

desire for God's word, 2:1-3

2. Tuesday – Pilgrims an identity derived from a destination, 1:1-4

sober minds and holy manner of life, 1:13-16

enduring suffering because of His coming glory, 1:7, 4:12-14

strangers and pilgrims, Hebrews 11:13 – confessed that they were waiting for God's promises

As a stranger in this world, the Christian does not belong; as pilgrims, Christians are going home. Peter teaches us that our identity is derived from our destination (1:1-4; some translations say "strangers" in 1:1).

Our pilgrim character is connected to the fact that we are positionally sanctified, or set apart (1:2). As a result of our position we are to be holy. This word "holy" is mentioned 7 times in Peter's writings and is connected to our calling which is also mentioned 7 times.

In 1:13-16 Peter links holy lives with things that will help us be holy in a practical way.

- Gird up the loins of your minds; prepare for action
- Be sober (1:13, 4:7, 5:8)
- Rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought

What can we learn in 1:17 as to our pilgrim character?

What is the challenge in 2:9-12?

How do we demonstrate pilgrim character (2:13-17)?

What is the secret strength of a pilgrim (4:1-2)?

How should I interact with other pilgrims (4:9-12)?

Based on 1:7 and 4:12-14, why should we endure suffering as a pilgrim?

3. **Wednesday – Strangers** an identity derived from separation, 2:11

A stranger is away from home; a pilgrim is on the way home.

To illustrate, the Lord Jesus was considered a stranger in Jerusalem because He seemed completely disconnected from what had taken place there, Luke 24:18. Moses was a stranger in Midian (Acts 7:29) where everything was "off" compared to his training in Egypt. As strangers, we are surrounded by the unfamiliar.

Our conduct marks us out as strangers. Review 1 Peter 2:11-17. See also 1 Peter 4:3-4

- abstain from fleshly lusts;
- practice good works;
- compare the book of Titus for good works; the Christians were different from the Cretans
- we don't indulge our desires when others do; and we practice integrity when others don't

Daniel is another good example. He and his friends had their names changed, and the Babylonians tried to remake them into different people. But when it came to what they would eat and whom they would worship, there was a line they would not cross.

In the world, but not of it: How does this impact the Christian? John 17:16-18

How does it affect my career? Can it be, say, in the medical field, where I might have to work on Sunday? How does it affect my hobbies, my leisure activities? Are these inherently wrong uses of money? Can I eat at a restaurant on Sunday afternoon?

It depends. Any of those that overwhelm my identity as a Christian are too far; but I can use the things of the world to display Christ's character and seek His interests; Luke 16:8, 1 Cor. 7:31. Being strangers does not eliminate interactions in the world.

We were strangers from God; now we are strangers in the world. But we do have a family; God has made us fellow citizens with the saints; Ephesians 2:13, 19. It's like traveling abroad and meeting someone from your own country; a relationship to appreciate and nurture.

4. **Thursday - A spiritual house** living stones and a holy priesthood, 2:4-5

Christ is the Living Stone; Psl 118:22, Isa 28:16

Dan 2: 34-35 presents the Lord Jesus as that stone

Matt 16:18 ...upon the confession of the Lord Jesus as the Christ the Son of the Living God ...the Church will be (is being) built.

1 Peter 2:4 - He was rejected by men but chosen by God. Peter seemed to present this contrast between the way men treated the Lord Jesus compared to God

- Acts 2:23-24
- Acts 4:5-12

Ephesians 2:19-22

The foundation is the apostles and prophets but the Lord Jesus is the chief cornerstone
This is a building that is fitted together. God brings the parts together; cp. 1 Kings 6:7
This is a growing building; occupied by the Holy Spirit

Within the House there is also the thought of behavior

1 Tim 3:15...we need to know how to behave

In 1 Tim the House is in order; 2 Tim 2:19-26 there is disorder in the house

Holy Priesthood: We offer spiritual sacrifices, 1 Peter 2:5

- Heb 13:15-16 ...sacrifices of praise and giving
- Rom 12:1...we present our bodies as living sacrifices
- No limitation as with Zacharias in Luke 1, who enjoyed the high honor of offering incense but was restricted to that offering and for that short time period of his service. We have all the aspects of Christ to offer to God

We are at all times a spiritual house, not only when we assemble together for a meeting.

There is also the thought of gift by each person within the house, 1 Peter 4:10

- We are to be good stewards
- The thought of gift is more connected with the Body of Christ, but it applies here as well; each one has received a gift, so serve one another, 4:10-11. It's often not so much that we don't know our gifts but that we are reluctant to serve one another.

5. Friday - A chosen generation a people of His own, 2:9-10

Chosen: example of David choosing five stones and making them his own, 1 Samuel 17
Same thought as "elect"; Christ is God's elect one, 1 Pet. 2:4,6; and we are His, 1:2, 2:9
The chosen generation is light in the darkness, Philippians 2:15

Called: part of a process in which God knows the end is glory, Romans 8:30

- mentioned in 1 Peter 1:15, 2:9, 2:21, 3:9, 5:10 (and twice more in 2 Pet. 1:3, 1:10)
- calling implies dignity in the invitation
- heavenly source: hope of His calling, Eph. 1:18; partakers of heavenly calling, Heb. 3:1
- walk worthy of it, Eph. 4:1

The purpose of being chosen and called is to declare the praises, the excellencies, of the one who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Pet. 2:9). It's a "marvelous thing" that He has opened our eyes (Jn. 9:30)! Being chosen and called is not so we can bask in elite status, like a Hall of Fame, but so we can set forth His greatness—the work of royal priests.

The spiritual house and the chosen generation are collective relationships. It's a priesthood, it's a nation, it's a people (2:9). Therefore our relationships to each other are also important.

- Peter writes not just about brethren but about "the brotherhood," a unique word only he uses (1 Pet. 2:17, 5:9). Labor unions imagine a brotherhood where every member is focused on the same goals. How much more should Christians appreciate this?

- in marriage, Christians are heirs together of the grace of life (1 Pet. 3:7). Practice living when single as if we are heirs together of God's blessings, and this will be our mindset in marriage throughout the ups and downs of life