

REVERENCE, FEAR & PURITY

1:17-25

Evidently it was important to Peter to talk about holiness, fear and purity, to these people. Why?

Question: What would be our greatest temptation when the society/culture we live in become corrupt and crooked? (Ans: So that they do not become like the world in conduct (3:9,14))

V.17

If... or since is used to present a seeming question here. We call/acknowledge God as Father as we appeal to Him through our prayers. However, our heavenly Father who chose to sanctify us, is also the one who will judge us impartially by each one's works. Peter's image presented of our Heavenly Father and Judge can be confusing to some people.

Peter portrays here God as both our Father & Judge, and will explain how he reconciles this.

1. Peter **give us the order** in which **God will judge**... (4:17)
 - a. Judgment will **start first** with his family/children.
 - b. Then the judgment to follow after us will be a dreadful one on those who do not obey the gospel of God.
2. We address God as our **Father** and pray to Him as our Heavenly Father...
 - a. We believe that out of love for us God redeemed us and is our Heavenly Father.
 - b. God's love does not prevent our Heavenly Father correcting us of our sinful patterns and inconsistencies... **Why**, because He desires to see Holiness through our lives.
 - c. As a Father He's faithful to discipline all His children whom He loves. (Hebrews 12:5-8)
 - i. Earthly example... We relate to our earthly fathers in this way. The father figure is loving, protective, guiding. But they also are one who disciplines us for our good.
3. Our Father is also said to be our **impartial Judge!** In Him the two aspects are inseparably united. Both create a balanced view to live life. As Father He distinguishes and evaluates the intent and motive of our actions. (1 Cor. 3:13-15)
 - a. God's judgment is not determined by outward appearance or outward pretension. Because from the heart come the conduct in our lives that reflects our true identity.
 - b. Whatever face or mask people try to put on is transparent to God.
 - c. God does not show favoritism in his dealings (Acts 10:34; Rom. 2:11; Eph. 6:9; Col. 3:25)
 - d. God doesn't look the other way when we sin in thought, word or action. (Hebrew 4:13)
 - e. God's dealing with sin from His initiative is portrayed in 2:24; 3:18

Peter's uses the imperative or command "**Conduct yourselves**" and live life **in the fear of God** during your stay on earth.

Conduct was previously mentioned with reference to **Holiness** (v.14) and our being obedient. Now "**conduct**" is used with reference to **fear**, not a terror kind of fear.

(Question: How is fear good, and how is it bad? Is fear and love part of raising children?)

1. Fear is part of our make-up that from a sense of Danger/Threat, Awe/Reverent/Respect, and Guilt/Punishment... often influences us to take certain action or respond that restrains us. (E.g. a car coming at you...fear)
 - a. Those who reject God are said to have no fear of God before their eyes (Romans 3:8)
 - b. We often fear when we feel endangered (Read: Matthew 17:6)

- c. Fear of God is brought on by being overwhelmed by His greatness (Luke 7:15-16)
- d. Solomon mentions the fear of the Lord is beginning of Knowledge, Wisdom, Strong confidence, principle that leads to life. (Proverb 1:7; 9:10; 14:26; 19:23)
- e. The fear of God keeps one from making wrong decision/way (Abimelech Gen. 20:11)
- f. Fear can lead us to the love of God. (Woman healed of hemorrhaging... but would fear Jesus until he ask her to come forward to meet him personally.)
- g. The fear of God can dispel all other fears. (Romans 8:1, 31-34; 1John 4:1-19)

Conclusion... If we fear the right things it leads us in the right direction. A child with a healthy upbringing experiences both fear and love. As we mature we come know the love of God, then when love is perfected or matured it cast out our fears (1John 4:16-19)

- 2. Peter relates **fear** to Christian life in 1 Peter.
 - a. Positive comments about the fear of God or reverent (2:17-18; 3:2, 15).
 - b. Peter also mentions fear in a negative way in these verses (3:6, 14)

V.18-21

What motivates our reverence/fear of God? Our KNOWING we are redeemed with kindness, love, and holiness. Not by our giving perishable things to God, nor by the futile ways we inherited from ancestors... But through Christ (sprinkling of Blood v.2). This gives us a new way of life (foreigners to the world). Our Christian life is lived-out through the knowledge of the redemption that Christ has accomplished for us. (Written on us Love, Redeem, Forgiven...)

- 1. Redeem- related to the institution of slavery under Roman law. We were purchased **out of** the market place of slavery- sin...entered into freedom by the blood of Christ, (Mark 10:45)
- 2. Peter tells us that this is something personal. Jesus appeared in the world, **for your Sake**. In eternity past God's plan for you were established - v.12- "served you" - v.20- "appeared for your sake" -v.25 "preached to you")
- 3. Only because Christ was raised from the dead, we have a living hope. You believe in God because Christ is risen and alive...Heb.1:2.

From Vertical to Horizontal in our Relationships

V.22-25 Holiness: A Life of Love and Purity

- 1. The fact (v.22) that we have obeyed the truth and purified your soul (Perfect tense).
 - a. Peter give a command... "**love your brethren from a pure heart**"
 - b. Love for non-Christian is not in view here, (it comes later) because the mark of Christians, according to Christ, is there love for one another. (John 13:34-35)
 - c. The importance of this for these people in such adverse times... is support and be there for one another. (Hebrews 10:32-34)
- 2. Peter said (v. 23), you have been born again (Perfect Tense) not of perishable thing, but from the imperishable... the **living & abiding** word of God.
 - a. The Word: "God's self-revelation" (James 1:18)
 - i. It is living (spoken) word because it imparts life (Heb. 4:12)
 - ii. It is abiding (written)...because it endures- eternal
 - b. The flesh and all of it glory, will not endure (v.24)
- 3. God's word brings a **personal** and **lasting** significance for each believer "**to you**" (v.25)