

Out with the wicked, in with the Word

Robert Rohlin / General

1 Peter

Introduction -- We all like to see babies grow and thrive normally. That is why we're so protective when they first enter the world. We want to make sure that sick people don't come around to see the baby until well after the baby's immune system kicks in. A lot of us prefer to delay immunizations until after our children have acquired a strong immune system. So we try to keep the bad stuff out of their lives.

Additionally, we also want to make sure that babies get the best nutrition they can. And there is simply no substitute for mother's milk. To be sure, some mothers don't nurse their babies for a variety of reasons. Maybe they can't produce milk. Maybe they feel they just don't have time. Judy and I have known a few mothers who just couldn't stick it out through the tough phases of nursing long enough to get to that enjoyable bonding time.

So some children grow up on goat's milk or formula. But to be sure, God's design of mother's milk is the best for the baby.

So to make sure the baby grows, we need to do 2 things: get rid of the harmful things and give quality nutrition.

Relational -- A new Christian or a church is no different. For them to thrive, you have to do 2 things.

1. Out with the bad -- Tell story here of what happened in our church
2. In with the good -- Cultivate a love for the Word of God.

Out with the bad

In light of the holiness of God Peter addresses in the previous chapter, we are to cleanse ourselves from sins. Peter focuses on the sins that most easily divide Christians.

The Interlinear Literal Translation of the Greek New Testament Chapter 2

Αποθεμενοι ουν πασαν κακιαν και παντα δολον και υποκρισεις και φθονους και πασας καταλαλιας

1 Peter 2:1 LEB

Therefore, ridding yourselves of all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander,

A response to holiness

Repentance is a response to the holiness of God

Repentance is a response to the _____ of God.

1 Peter 1:16–23 LEB

for it is written, “You will be holy, because I am holy.” And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves with fear during the time of your temporary

residence, because you know that you were redeemed from your futile way of life inherited from your ancestors not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of an unblemished and spotless lamb who was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has been revealed in these last times for you who through him are believing in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for sincere brotherly love, love one another fervently from the heart, because you have been born again, not from perishable seed but imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

A response to love

When we are born into God's family, He showers His love on us. We respond to that love by desiring to please Him. We don't want to fail Him. We want to emulate Jesus' character and righteousness. We want our Father to smile on our behavior.

We purify ourselves because we love God and He loves us. Purification is a response to the LOVE of God.

Peter talks about that love in 1 Peter 1:22

Purification is a response to the _____ of God.

Look at the Book Labs Outline

This is what it means to “grow up into salvation”—we love more, and are less consumed with wickedness—and that happens as we satisfy ourselves with the spiritual milk of the word of God.

1 Peter 1:22 LEB

Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for sincere brotherly love, love one another fervently from the heart,

A response to intention

Germs don't go away by themselves

The trash doesn't take itself out. We must be INTENTIONAL to purge out the "old leaven" or sin from our lives each day.

The trash doesn't take itself out. We must be _____ to purge out the old leaven.

1 Corinthians 5:7–8 LEB

Clean out the old leaven in order that you may be a new batch of dough, just as you are unleavened. For Christ our Passover has been sacrificed. So then, let us celebrate the feast, not with the old leaven or with the leaven of wickedness and sinfulness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Why does Peter focus on these sins?

These are the sins that most easily destroy fellowship among God's children.

Why does Peter focus on these sins in 1 Peter 2:1 and not others?

Proverbs 6:16–19 LEB

There are six things Yahweh hates,
and seven things are abominations of his soul:
haughty eyes, a lying tongue,

and hands that shed innocent blood,
 a devising heart, plans of deception,
 feet that hurry to run to evil,
 a false witness who breathes lies
 and sends out discord between brothers.

3 virtues to cultivate

- Purity
- Truthfulness (and obedience to the truth)
- Brotherly love

1 Peter 1:22 LEB

Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for sincere brotherly love, love one another fervently from the heart,

3 vices to eliminate

ALL Malice -- the opposite of purity

ALL deceit and hypocrisy and envy -- the opposite of truth

ALL slander -- the opposite of brotherly love

The word _____ shows the 3 categories of sins Peter addresses.

Malice is the opposite of _____

Deceit, hypocrisy, and envy are the opposite of _____

Slander is the opposite of _____

1 Peter 2:1 LEB

Therefore, ridding yourselves of all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander,

Malice -- An evil disposition

Purity is a disposition to holiness

Malice is a disposition to hurtfulness

It is the ATTITUDE that makes us want to hurt others.

Other words: corruption, malignancy, rotting, corrosive, malevolence, wickedness

Malice is an evil _____. It is an _____ that makes us want to hurt others.

Deceit, hypocrisy, and envy -- evil desires

- Deceit = Deliberate dishonesty; it is a desire that other people believe what is not true
- Hypocrisy = pretended piety; is a type of deceit that conceals things about ourselves
- Envy = damaging discontent; it is wanting the power, position, prestige, or possessions that others have.
- These words indicate a selfish APPETITE.

Deceit, hypocrisy, and envy are evil _____. They give evidence of a selfish _____.

Isaiah 29:13 LEB

And the Lord said,

“Because this people draw near with its mouth,
and with its lips it honors me,
and its heart is far from me,
and their fear of me is a commandment of men that has been
taught,

Mark 7:6 LEB

So he said to them, “Isaiah prophesied correctly about you hypocrites,
as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,
but their heart is far, far away from me.

John 1:47 LEB

Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said about him, “Look! A
true Israelite in whom is no deceit!”

Slander -- evil deeds

- Of the sins listed, this is the only one that is an ACTION.
- *katalalias* -- Literally, evil speakings
- To backbite, to be a talebearer, to be an accuser (one of the names of Satan), to stab in the back, to devour, to eat flesh, to defame or blaspheme

Slander is an evil _____. It is the only sin Peter mentions that is an _____.

Leviticus 19:16 LEB

You shall not go about with slander among your people; you shall not endanger your neighbor's life; I am Yahweh.

Proverbs 30:10 LEB

Do not slander a servant to his master,
or else he will curse you and you will be guilty.

In with the good

1 Peter 2:2 LEB

like newborn infants long for the unadulterated spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up to salvation,

Commanded to crave (1 Peter 2:2)

- This is the IMPERATIVE word or COMMAND in this passage: "LONG FOR and DESIRE and CRAVE the Word of God."
- *epipotheo* = to have an intense and strong craving

Our new birth should make us desire the Word of God

- When healthy babies are born, they have an instinctive desire to nurse

- Midwives check the baby to see if it has a strong sucking reflex
- Some babies are "tongue-tied" which makes it harder for them to nurse and the baby requires a simple procedure to free their tongues so they can nurse effectively.
- Unhealthy babies don't have that same desire to nurse.

Our continued growth demands the Word of God

- A mother's milk meets the physical needs of a child.
- But God's Word not only feeds our spirit; it also develops our mind
- It is "mental milk"

The word *logikon* indicates that the Word of God is the foundation of all _____.

Why a newborn babe instead of a toddler?

- You know why we love newborns so much? They're so sweet and innocent and pure.
- They come into the world totally dependent on you.
- They stare at your face, studying you.
- But by the time they are toddlers, you discover the horrible reality that these little ones were born as depraved sinners.

Why pure milk?

- In verse 3, Peter suggests that this milk is Christ Himself.

- It is why I tell new Christians to focus on reading the four Gospels for at least a year before they read any other part of the Bible. Read it over and over again until you can see Christ responding to situations in your mind.
- A mother's milk has amazing curative properties for combatting disease.
- The mother's milk is "unadulterated" or pure. Compare the milk here to Paul's use of "living water" from the "rock that followed them".
- We must feed on wholesome spiritual food to replace the evil dispositions, desires, and deeds that we are to eliminate from our lives. You can't fight disease without proper nutrition.
- God's Word is PURE in contrast to the deceit in verse 1. God's Word does not deceive and neither should God's children.

Peter suggests that spiritual milk is _____ Himself. God's Word is _____ which is a contrast to the deceit mentioned in verse 1.

Isaiah 55:1 LEB

“Ho! Everyone thirsty, come to the waters!
 And whoever has no money, come, buy and eat,
 and come, buy without money,
 wine and milk without price!

Milk brings fulfilment and contentment

- Babies after they have eaten no longer have that desperate cry

- They either go straight to sleep because their need has been fulfilled OR
- They are happy, interactive, and playful because they are content.
- When we're filled with spiritual milk, we become content with who we are in Christ. The desires for deceit, hypocrisy, and envy fade away.

Spiritual milk (studying Christ in the Word) causes us to become _____ with who we are in Christ.

Growing up "to salvation"

- When we receive Christ, we are "justified" -- meaning our sins are forgiven.
- We then should undergo the process of sanctification -- becoming more like Christ each day.
- One day we will get our resurrection body that is free from any pain or disease -- that is glorification.
 - Only when you have all 3 -- justification + sanctification + glorification, do you have SALVATION.
 - Justification is just the down payment or earnest deposit of Salvation.

SALVATION = Justification + Sanctification + Glorification

Justification is the _____ payment (or earnest) of Salvation

1 Peter 1:5 LEB

who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time,

1 Peter 1:7 LEB

so that the genuineness of your faith, more valuable than gold that is passing away, but is tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

1 Peter 1:9 LEB

obtaining the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

1 Peter 1:13 LEB

Therefore, when you have prepared your minds for action by being self-controlled, put your hope completely in the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

The remedy for wrong desires

- Comes from knowing and tasting the goodness and kindness of the Lord
- Illustration of Bulletproof coffee (or Ketone Kreme)
- When we fill our most essential need with the goodness and kindness of the Lord, then evil desires become totally inappropriate.
- The surest path to spiritual growth and victory is to begin each day with time in God's Word. Nothing else so protects us from the Evil One as humbly soaking in the Word of God.

- Look at these Scriptures that teach us that sitting down to read God's Word after humbly approaching God and asking Him to speak to us is the one EXTERNAL action that produces an INWARD change of heart.

What is our most essential spiritual need according to this passage of Scripture (1 Peter 2:1-3)?

Romans 7:22 LEB

For I joyfully agree with the law of God in my inner person,

Job 23:12 LEB

From the commandment of his lips, indeed I have not departed;
I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily food.

Psalms 40:8 LEB

'I delight to do your will, O my God,
and your law is deep within me.' "

From Romans 7:22, Job 23:12, and Psalm 40:8, it is clear that taking the time to humbly pray and then open our Bible to read what God has to say to you is the one _____ action that can produce a true _____ change of heart.

Got refuge?

Psalms 34:8 LEB

Taste and see that Yahweh is good;
blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.

Psalm 119:16 LEB

I will take delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word.

Psalm 119:24 LEB

Your testimonies are my delight,
my counselors.

Psalm 119:35 LEB

Cause me to walk in the path of your commands,
for I delight in it.

Psalm 119:47–48 LEB

And I will take delight in your commands,
which I love.
And I will lift up my hands to your commands, which I love,
and I will meditate on your statutes.

Psalm 119:72 LEB

The law of your mouth is better to me
than thousands of gold and silver coins.

Psalm 119:92 LEB

Unless your law had been my delight,
then I would have perished in my misery.

Psalm 119:97–104 LEB

How I love your law!
The whole day it is my meditation.
Your commands make me wiser than my enemies,
because they are ever with me.
I have more insight than all my teachers,
for your testimonies are my meditation.
I understand more than the elders,
for I keep your precepts.
I have restrained my feet from every evil way,
so that I may heed your word.
I have not turned aside from your ordinances,
for you have taught me.
How smooth are your words to my palate,
more than honey in my mouth.
From your precepts I get understanding,
therefore I hate every false way.

Project 53

Have you neglected spending daily time in God's Word?

Do you find that you need a bit of a tuneup spiritually to be able to say to God, "O how I love thy law!"?

Do you find yourself sometimes going day after day, week after week, seemingly demonstrating no delight in or craving for God's word?

Today is October 2, 2016. From now until Thanksgiving is 53 days or 7.57 weeks. So for the next 7 weeks, will you commit to starting each

day by humbly approaching the Word of God before beginning the rest of your day?

At the end of that time, would you be willing to share how that consistent commitment for 7.5 weeks affected your life?

Will you commit to beginning each day by humbly spending time in God's Word for the next 53 days?