

1 Peter 1:22-2:3

Walk in Love

Before we read our passage today I want to remind you that Peter is writing to people who are suffering.

A) They are experiencing the harsh realities of life in this fallen world.

B) And although First Peter is full of words of comfort, it's not just a letter of comfort;

1) Peter is giving some marching orders

C) Because Peter understands that even in times of suffering,

1) God calls us to give ourselves to His plan/ to His purpose.

See Peter knows that often in times of suffering we are tempted to become very self-oriented

A) And all too self-focused,

B) In times of suffering we're tempted to start singing the victim song – Woe is me!

C) In times of suffering we are tempted to forget about others and just think about ourselves.

So Peter is calling us away from that

A) Because he knows that the more you are focused on your suffering,

B) the greater your suffering becomes.

C) And so Peter is calling us beyond that and to focus on the big picture plan of God

D) In v.13 Peter begins to tell us what that plan looks like

1) We are called to walk in Holiness

E) We noted that Holiness is not just a calling it is our Identity!

1) We have been declared Holy through the blood of Jesus Christ

Defined Holy as being set apart for a singular purpose – singular purpose is to glorify God

A) In every situation and every location and every circumstance of my life no matter what.

B) See Difficulty doesn't change the game.

1) Suffering doesn't change the game.

Bb) Suffering and difficulty doesn't give us an excuse to throw a pity party and not walk in holiness.

C) Walking in holiness isn't something that we seek to do only when we are feeling blessed

1) and – things are going easy.

D) Holiness is our identity – Walk in that reality

Pause right now:

A) I know in this room – those online – some of you are really going through it right now.

B) You are in the thick of difficulty - There's sickness among us.

1) There are people who have faced loss in their lives. Loved ones who have passed. Spouses – kids – friends

C) Others have jobs that have ended.

1) There are people facing financial difficulty./

D) There are parents who are weeping for their wayward children.

E) There are young families dealing with the stress of raising their children.

And sometimes when we are in the thick of the difficulty we are tempted to just settle for survival.

A) But what Peter is giving is a call to step way beyond survival.

B) This is a call to give yourself, even in want, even in weakness, even in difficulty, to the plan of God.

C) So Peter begins by giving us this call to walk in Holiness –

D) But then he follows that up with a Call to walk in Love V.22

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.

**Now before we consider what it looks like for us to
walk in love**

A) I want you to notice that this is also a part of
our identity.

B) V.23 **Having been born again** – speaking of
something happened to us

1) Born again = Born anew – spiritual birth

C) Born of flesh and of the Spirit

**Born again not of corruptible seed but
incorruptible seed – Word of God**

A) Something happened to you – Given new nature

B) New person – New Creation in Christ

C) Peter wants us to see how - Walking in Holiness
and walking in love go hand in hand because God
is both Holy –

1) V.16 **Be holy for I am holy**

God is love – 1 John 1

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, **for love is from
God**, and whoever loves has been born of God and
knows God. 1 John 4:7 **Sign that we have been
born again**

⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God,
because God is love. 1 John 4:8

**A) Love is a part of our New identity as those who
have been born of God**

God's love has been poured into our hearts through
the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. Romans 5:5
Esv

B) God's love has been poured into us - for the
purpose of being poured out of us.

C) People around us get to see and sense and feel
the Love of God emanating from our lives

**“Hear this: you're the tone of His voice. You're
the look on His face. You're the touch of His hand.
You're the incarnation of His goodness.**

**You're sent to reflect His patience. You're sent to
reflect His forgiveness. You're sent to reflect His
faithfulness. You're sent to reflect that acceptance
even when it's not deserved. You're there to be an
instrument of His transforming grace. You are
called to love!”**

Paul Tripp

**That is what the Holy Spirit is seeking to do in our
lives – Daily basis**

Notice how Peter describes this love – 4 traits

**A) 1st Sincere = Genuine Real – authentic – not
pretending**

B) The Bible says don't just love in Word – “Love
you man” – love in word -easy to say –

1) But we are to Love in deed and in truth

C) Sincere love doesn't just say it – it does
something to show it !

**2nd it is a brotherly love. – V.22 calls it the sincere
love of the brethren, Family**

A) We are blood related – connected by the blood
of Jesus.

B) It is a love that realizes – that Everyone in this
room is still in the midst of God's process of
sanctification.

C) Everyone in this room is still facing the realities
of life in a fallen world.

1) And we stand alongside of one another

D) So It is a love that says when your knees are
weak, I will hold you up.

1) When your heart is giving way to doubt, I want to
encourage you.

**E) When problems loom so large that it's hard for
you to see Jesus**

1) I want to give you eyes to see Him again.

So It is a Sincere love and a Brotherly love.

3rd It is a fervent love – love one another fervently

A) It means zealous.

B)It means motivated. It means self-starting. That means I'm looking for places to love.

C)It means I have eyes open and ears open and heart open.

1)I'm not just waiting for opportunities to come to me.

I am seeking them out

D)I see a need I am not going to call the church – “someone needs to do something about this”

1)I am going to pray and act – and seek God –

E)believing he showed me the problem because he wants me to be a part of the solution

4th and final word, ‘pure’ – “from a pure heart.” without mixed motives.

A)I'm not loving you because I want something from you;

B)I'm not loving you to grow in your favor, or to place you in my debt, or to be thought well of

1)or to be accepted, or to be respected.

C)I am loving you because I want to be part of God's good work in your life - that's my single motive.

1)Loving someone expecting nothing in return

I will be the first to admit – Loving like this is hard –

A)Every part of our flesh screams – protect yourself – don't make yourself vulnerable

B)You will be taken advantage of - Lani in Oregon

1)I will never do that again

C)We can't say that – Because – we are being conformedJesus

1)Jesus loved people – he KNEW were going to betray him, forsake him and some even would kill him

D)His love has been poured into us by the Holy Spirit – He wants us to love in that same way.

“By this shall all men know that you are my disciples.” How? “By your love for one another.”

John 13:35

“Love is our identity. Love is our calling. Love is our duty. Love is our mission.” Paul Tripp

Now check this out - The fact that is hard is one of the reason why the Holy Spirit –

A)inspires Peter to attach this call to love – with these words about the word of God

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.

Peter is borrowing a Picture here from Jesus

A)His teaching on the parable of the sower – The seed is the word of God

B)The seed has life in it – power in it – it is going to make something – something beautiful comes from the seed being planted

C)This seed gets planted in us at conversion

1)Jesus said **“The words which I speak are spirit and life,”** John 6:63).

D)And As we continue to study God Word –

1)The word of God is watering the seed and fertilizing the seed

E)Causes the seed to grow and bring forth fruit

1)Key fruit of the Holy Spirit is love

The Dynamic of the Word is that it is Enduring

A)EVERYTHING else in life is fading – like the flowers in the field – they fade and lose their meaning

B)But God's word endures - the word is Living and constant

C)As long as we are abiding in God's word – being steadfast in it to study

1)The Word is going to be working in us – and having that transforming affect in our lives

Now this thought continues on into Chapter 2

A)Where the Peter magnifies the role of the word in this growth process

B)But he also reveals the role that we have to play in the growth process as well

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. 1 Peter 2:1-3

C)There are certain things that need to be laid aside:

D)Peter mentions traits that are contrary to love – the opposite of love

E)But in order to lay aside these things in our life they need to be first identified –

1)Do I have any of this going on in me

Laying aside all Malice

A)Malice = bitterness unchecked - holding of grudges and acting out of these grudges against others.

B)Lay aside all Deceit = deliberate dishonesty,

1)speaking or acting with ulterior motives; manipulation.

C)Deceit is the selfish, two-faced attitude that deceives and hurts others for personal gain.

D)Laying aside Hypocrisy = pretending to be something you are not

E)Laying aside – Envy is a resentful discontent –

Envy is “the feeling of displeasure produced by hearing of the advantage or prosperity of others

A)Leads to Evil speaking – slander and gossip – speech that tears down

Note there is a noticeable progression to this list

A)Starts with Malice – a bitterness that goes unchecked in our hearts

B)A slow burning anger and resentment – grows

C)The Writer of the book of Hebrews warns us about allowing bitterness to take root in our lives

1)Defiles many –

D)Bitterness is like a weed that takes over the garden of your heart – to the point where it is all you see!

1)Your heart is over grown with the weed of bitterness

Bitterness unchecked leads to Deceit and Hypocrisy – a false flattery where you are pretending –

A)“So good to see you.” Inside thinking – not really I was hoping you were not going to be here

B)That grows into Envy – this resentful discontent

1)Where see something good happening to that person -

Feelings of resentment instead of rejoicing

C)Which naturally leads to evil speaking – because when someone that you don’t like is being lifted up

1)You feel the need to tear them down to other with your words

D)See how that Progression works ?

1)Lay aside all of that - Remove the bad and replace it with the good

as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

A)See when I recognize what is wrong with me –

B)these things in my heart that Jesus still needs to deal with - how gracious Jesus has been to me

C)The natural result of that should be that it drives me to the word

1)I realize – God’s word has that transforming effect on me – Jesus is my only hope

Interesting picture Peter gives: As new born babes – desire – crave the milk of the word.

A)A new born baby – they let you know when they are hungry.

B)Doesn’t matter what is going on – what mommy and daddy are up to – I am hungry

C) Doesn't matter the time of the night – who is sleeping - I am hungry – crying

D) Most newborns eat every 2-3 hours so 8-12 times a day

Peter is saying constantly be devouring God's word

A) Give yourself to it – live in it!

B) The interesting thing about eat spiritually – the more you eat and exercise your faith

1) the more hungry you get – the more that you long for more

C) Never get full – you only get more hungry

Now if you eat and don't exercise – you can get spiritually fat and constipated/ bloated

A) Ray Bentley – one thing that made the Jesus people movement so powerful – was this:

B) People were being taught things – they had never heard before- newly saved – hippies – excited

1) and they sought to apply it – how does this work in my life

C) Today more consumption than doing

D) And They were excited apply it and share it with others

1) Consequently the impact was HUGE – a generation was changed!

So Peter says – Make sure your desire for the word is growing – happens as you do it and share it

A) Do you know what ruins your spiritual appetite?

B) It happens when you are eating other things

1) Let's say – Denise is cooking steak today for lunch

C) but on the way home I decide stop at parlor donuts in Oceanside – couple of their donuts

D) I get home – I am not going to be as hungry for the steak

Same thing spiritually – If you get up morning – instead of getting into God's word –

A) News, IG, FB, Stocks –

B) Not only does **your time** for the word of God – dwindle – but so does your appetite.

C) Give yourself to the word first thing – often here is what happens –

1) you see everything through the lens of scripture – makes a huge difference

Close today – Remind you Parable of the soils – Jesus taught – Seed is the word of God

A) Falls in 4 types soil representing – 4 types of hearts

B) First Hard heart – no penetration – gets snatched away – (Not much you can do with hard heart)

1) Ask God to soften you

C) Stony ground – Shallow springs up right away

1) Emotional response – Awesome yes

D) But because it is an emotional response – shallow ground – difficult comes – withers – no fruit

Next is the thorny ground - Life's distractions

A) The seed of God's word choked out – doesn't allow it to bear any fruit

B) Last there is the good soil – soft and receptive – the word goes down deep takes root

1) Brings a bunch of fruit

C) We determine the soil of our hearts – Laying aside the things that don't belong

1) Making it our priority to seek God –

1st Service: Been walking with Jesus and studying the Bible a long time:

A) Question are you living it

2nd Service

A) Some of you have Been walking with Jesus and studying the Bible a long time:

B) Question are you living it ? – Sharing it ?

1) Is your appetite for the word growing or shrinking?

C) Others are distracted – the word never flourishes

D)Give your distractions to Jesus –

3rd Service

A) Some of you have Been walking with Jesus and studying the Bible a long time:

B)Question are you living it ? – Sharing it ?

1)Is your appetite for the word growing or shrinking?

C)Others are distracted – the word never flourishes

D)Give your distractions to Jesus –

Some shallow – Emotional response

A)Not a true response – today