



September 20, 2020
"Live Different"
1 Peter 1:13-2:3
Pastor Garrick Hanger

This week's passage, **1 Peter 1:13-2:3**, gives us five commands or ways that we are to follow the Lord. We are told to set our hope on Christ, to be holy, to fear God, to love one another earnestly and deeply, and to crave spiritual milk. All of these are grounded in the passage from two weeks ago, **1 Peter 1:3-12**, where Peter reminds us that we have been born again to a living hope, and that we have an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading. He reminds us of our salvation that compels us to obedience in these ways. As we look at the 5 forms of obedience, they can seem a little daunting. We are told to be holy, but we obviously struggle with this daily. We are told to fear God, but we often fear man instead. We are to deeply and genuinely love one another, which is so hard to do in a time when our world tells us that love is impossible unless we are in complete alignment on everything. Lastly, we are told to crave, to deeply desire, spiritual milk. This includes desiring and reading God's Word by spending time in the presence of the Lord, sitting with Him, praying and talking with Him.

- **As you ponder the list of commands, which one do you find easy? Why? Which one do you struggle with? Why?**

One of the hardest commands on this list is to genuinely love one another. In **1 Corinthians 13:13**, we are told that love is the greatest between faith, hope and love. **1 John 4** states that if we cannot love one another, we cannot love God.

- **Who or where do you struggle to love? Why?**
- **What can you do this week to pursue a heart of love toward that person or persons?**

As we look at obedience in these areas, we are reminded of something that pulls us away from obedience. Look at **v 14**, "**do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance**," and **v 18**, "**knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers**." There was a day for each of us when we were drawn to things that were not of God because we did not have eyes to see the truth. We pursued things that were futile; and unfortunately, while we have been made holy through Christ's death, we still struggle to live into that holiness. These desires can still linger. One way we can pursue obedience in these different areas is to explore the ways that we have been drawn away by acknowledging the idols and false ideas that we gravitate toward, releasing them to God and asking Him to replace those desires with His truth and a desire for Him. **Eph 4:22-24** encourages us to put off the old self and put on the new self. Take some time this week to read this passage and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you the old ways that need to be put off. If you keep reading in **Eph 4**, there are a few ways listed that can help guide you. Sometimes we prefer to ignore these things because they are painful to look at; but when we look and allow God to weed them out, they lose their strength.

- **Have you seen evidence of a believer who is still drawn to these passions?**
- **What does that do to one's relationship and walk with the Lord?**
- **How do you think someone can alter their way of thinking or let go of the pull it has on them?**
- **What idol, passion or futile way of living still continues to tug at you?**

It can be a way of thinking that can lead to sin, a desire that you struggle to believe God will meet, or even an expectation you have that you don't want to release to God.

- **Why has this been so hard to release? What can you do this week that will allow God to start to weed it out?**

FROM PASTOR GARRICK:

1 Peter 1:13 we are commanded to "set our hope in Christ".

- **Being honest with yourself, where else have you set your hope outside of Christ?**
- **How does being tethered to this false hope distract your walk with Jesus?**

Holiness is a direction not a destination. Pursuing righteousness is not perfection, but a continual desire to walk rightly.

- **What area of your life do you need to start/keep walking rightly? To love one another deeply requires three aspects: effort, desire and persistence. Knowing this is how God loved you in Christ, who do you need to work at loving in this manner?**