

## Week of October 26, 2020: 1 Peter 1:14-25

### SERMON DISCUSSION GROUP



#### Discussion Questions Set #1

"As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." ." (1 Peter 1:14-16)  
"Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12)  
"Throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And ... run with perseverance the race marked out for us" (Hebrews 12:1).

1. Considering your own experience of following Jesus, do you find the command to "be holy in all you do" a difficult one? Why do you think Peter writes with the assumption that we are obedient children?
2. How do you understand the tension between "being obedient/holy" and "becoming obedient/holy" in your following of Jesus?
3. What might happen if we rest too heavily on the "being obedient/holy" aspect of our standing in Christ, without recognizing the "becoming holy/obedient" aspect?
4. What might happen if we rest too heavily on the "becoming obedient/holy" aspect of our standing in Christ, without recognizing the "being holy/obedient" aspect?
5. Thinking of the church in 2020, what might a better grasp of this dynamic between "being" and "becoming" enable us to accomplish or allow us to avoid as we press forward?

#### Discussion Questions Set #2

"I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws." (Ezekiel 36:25-27)

"[We] were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to [us] from [our] ancestors ... with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect." (1 Peter 1:18)

In sermon, we used the above passage from Ezekiel 36 to help us understand three "I will" statements of God – accomplished through the work of the Messiah - in relation to our obedience and holiness.

1. Discuss the importance to our understanding of holiness/obedience of the three "I will" statements found in Ezekiel 36:
  - a. I will cleanse you (in Christ, I am clean)
  - b. I will give you a new heart and new spirit (new life in Christ)
  - c. I will move you to follow my decrees and keep my laws (ongoing obedience)
2. Why is it important that all three of these aspects of following Jesus find their genesis (beginning) in a gracious act of God? What might happen if we fail to recognize this fact?
3. How does understanding this impact your view of Christ's death on our behalf? Does it add to or diminish from His work on the cross?
4. In sermon it was suggested that, as followers of Jesus, we are not to conform to the world – to fashion ourselves after evil – but instead, allow ourselves to be transformed by the Spirit of God living in us. What thoughts does this reality bring to mind for you?

#### Discussion Questions Set #3

"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." (1 Corinthians 13:13)

"Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart." (1 Peter 1:22)

In sermon, this triad – love, hope and faith – was discussed as an incredible and eternal cycle. God's love produces hope, which we respond to by faith, which leads to the purification of our hearts and cleansing of our consciences and enables love to be shown to God and to others ... which produces hope, increases faith and leads to greater acts of sacrificial love.

1. Why is it important that love – shown by God initially, but shown by us secondarily – is both the beginning and the end of this biblical triad? What does this cyclical pattern suggest to you?
2. Do you believe that loving more deeply – sacrificially extending ourselves to others as Christ did for us – is a battle tactic against a rise in hopelessness? Why or why not?

