

1 Peter 1:13-21 Discussion Questions

Sermon Outline

Intro

- Witness protection program
- Table of contents
 - New identity leads to new activity (v.13)
 - Family resemblance (v.14-16)
 - Understanding Redemption (v.17-21)

New Identity Leads to New Activity (v.13)

- Review the heart of verses 1-12
 - These are believers are chosen by the Lord in the midst of cultural exile, because of their faith in Christ
 - The Lord is using this exile to show his plan, mature them for his purposes and establish covenant and obedience with them
 - Peter assumes they will worship because of the living hope and inheritance that has been granted to them through the resurrection of Christ, despite their current suffering.
 - This is so profound that the prophets looked forward to it and the angels are astounded by it.
- *Preparing you minds for action-* gird the loins of your mind; posture your mentality to be ready for the challenge that is coming
- *Sober-minded-* referring to self-control
- Setting hope on a future promise
 - Back in a Colossians series, we wrestled with what future unrealized thing was so powerful that it changed the way you lived presently.

Family Resemblance (v.14-16)

- Identification as children instead of subjects or exiles
- A call to have conduct that reflects the character of God
- Leviticus 19.1-4
 - Shape of Leviticus: rituals, priests and purity all find there fullness in the explanation of the day of Atonement. Chapters 11-20 explain purity in terms of individual purity and societal purity in terms of relationship to one another.
 - *And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be*

holy, for I the LORD your God am holy. 3 Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and you shall keep my Sabbaths: I am the LORD your God. 4 Do not turn to idols or make for yourselves any gods of cast metal: I am the LORD your God.

Understanding Redemption

- Conduct yourselves with fear
 - References to fear
 - Matthew 14.26
 - *But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear.*
 - Acts 5.5
 - *When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it.*
 - Ephesians 6.5
 - *Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ,*
 - Ransomed- Greco-Roman culture; a slave would pay silver or gold at the temple which would then take a commission and then pay the balance to the slave's owner. This would make the slave free in society, but enslaved to the deity of the temple.
 - Deuteronomy 7.6-8
 - *For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. 7 It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, 8 but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.*

Implications

No longer slaves, but now sons and daughters

Discussion Questions

Feel free to choose what questions will be most helpful to your group to grow in their understanding of the Scripture and faithfully apply it to their lives.

Read 1 Peter 1:13-21

1. In v. 13 Peter exhorts his readers to put their hope fully in grace of God that we will experience at Jesus' return, and to do this expectantly and with sobriety.

a. How can we discern what we are putting our hope in?

b. To be "expectant" communicates optimism. To have "sober judgment" is to be realistic. How do we walk in hope in a way that is both optimistic and realistic? What does this look like?

2. Peter then goes onto encourage us toward holiness, because God our Father is holy.

a. Holiness is fundamentally about being closely associated with God and set apart for his purposes. And it is because God is righteous God, those who are close to him and used by him must also be righteous. In this way, Holiness communicates intimacy and purpose along with moral purity.

1) How does this fuller understanding holiness alter the way you think about what it means for you to be holy?

b. Why do you think that Peter is intentional to encourage this church of exiles not resort to living according the "passions of their former ignorance?" What about being in exile make returning to old patterns of living such a temptation?

c. How have you seen this same temptation in your own life play out?

d. What have you found to be the most helpful in your own pursuit of holiness? What has God taught you about the value of holiness in your own life and how it is developed within you?

3. A key theme of this passage is living out our identities as children of God. We see it all the through vv.14-18. Specifically, we are called to be holy and walk

with appropriate sense of the power and authority of God, as opposed to living according to the "futile ways of our forefathers."

a. What would you say were the defining characteristics of your family and your home life growing up? How do you see these things playing themselves out in your own life both in the past and today?

b. What has leaving behind the "futile ways of your forefathers" and imitating your heavenly father looked like for you? How has God been transforming you in areas where your family of origin may have been weak and immature?