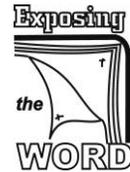


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The Epistles of 1 & 2 Peter

BY DR. EDGAR PIERCE



III- Remember the Basis of Obedience is Christ Sacrifice: *1Pe 1:13-21*

When as parents we have children who are obedient it is very satisfying. Why are obedient children important? We let's paint a scenario. Two children with their moms or dads are walking down the street. Little Johnny and Billy are playing with the energy of a child. They approach an intersection and Johnny's dad calls out to Johnny to stop. Johnny stops immediately. Billy however is not obedient and continues to run ahead and not heeding the call of his father to stop. Little Billy ends up running into the street and danger because of his not heeding the voice of his father to stop.

It is no less important that we are reminded of obedience and walking with God so that we can hear His voice and be responsive to His commands. It is what is best for us in all aspects of life.

I- Hitch Up Your Britches:

If you would allow a country boy metaphor. Remember Peter is talking to the ones he has called “strangers” and will call “Pilgrims” in *2 Pet 2:12*.

1Pe 1:13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind..., Robertson's Word Pictures says this is a, “vivid metaphor for habit of the Orientals, who quickly gathered up their loose robes with a girdle when in a hurry or starting on a journey.” Or the country boy metaphor, hitch up your britches. When the children of Israel left Egypt during the night of Passover as the death angel passed and the partook of their meal they were told recorded in *Exo 12:11 And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD'S passover.*

Now Peter is not talking about outward garments but the loins of our minds. He next gives some components of this girded mind.

1Pe 1:13 ...be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

We see the exhortation to be sober. This in our language today may seem to mean alcohol free but in the original language it means be calm and collected or watchful and temperate. Even in the face of the danger

that they were facing those who would have their minds fixed on Christ would face it with a certain amount of calm.

The other thing that Peter exhorts us to here is to “*hope to the end for the grace...*” The soberness or calm can only be had when we realize we are kept in grace. Now I am not saying we are always kept from harm but we are kept in His grace. Regardless of what happens, be it life or death, we have the hope of grace in our lives.

II- Obedient Children:

Here is a reminder that we are to walk in obedience as God's children. The purpose of girding up the mind is that we can understand the things of God and then with understand do them.

1Pe 1:14 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

The problem many of us have is the flesh keeps getting in the way. I am amazed at how the flesh we live in fights for itself.

Barnes Notes says the following about not fashioning ourselves.

The idea is, that they were to have some model or example, in accordance with which they were to frame their lives, but that they were not to make their own former principles and conduct the model. The Christian is to be as different from what he was himself before conversion as he is from his fellow-men. He is to be governed by new laws, to aim at new objects, and to mould his life in accordance with new principles.

The *William's New Testament* translates *1 Pet 1:14 As obedient children, stop molding your character by the evil desires you used to cherish when you did not know any better.*

The call for us as God's children has never been accept Christ and then go do what you want. It has always been for a higher calling and higher standard. In our times it seems every day that some has been caught in some sort of moral failure. Many of these have named the name of Christ in their life. When they

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fail their failures are brazenly broadcast to the world while those who sit back and condemn are less transparent.

III- Call to Holiness:

Notice this high calling in *1Pe 1:15-16* ***But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.***

The HCSB translates conversation, “**Conduct**” while the NASB renders it, “**behavior.**” One of the great compulsion to walk in obedience is that we are the children of God.

We are called upon here to be holy. Paul exhortation was, ***I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called. Eph 4:1***

Php 1:27 says ***Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.***

Defining Holiness the *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia* says,

...it is especially in its application to Christians that the idea of holiness meets us in the New Testament in a sense that is characteristic and distinctive. Christ's people are regularly called “saints” or holy persons, and holiness in the high ethical and spiritual meaning of the word is used to denote the appropriate quality of their life and conduct.

There are two things it lists then: *1- As Separate from the Word; 2- As Bound to the Pursuit of an Ethical Ideal.*

Peter is reminding us that our calling is a higher calling of holiness than the world or any religion in fact has.

IV- Naming the Name:

1Pe 1:17 ***And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:***

Now back to little Johnny and little Billy. Why would Johnny stop? May I suggest obedience out of love and respect and perhaps a little reverent fear?

If we invoke the “I am a Christian, I am a son of the Father by Christ” label to our lives we are reminded it is a solemn thing. Someone said that the drunk lying in the gutter cursing and taking God’s name in vain does not do much if any damage to the cause of God. It is the ones who claim they are walking in obedience that cause the problem; those that claim to love and then destroy others.

Let us not miss that Peter tells us that God is the one who judges all things but His judgment is fair. He has not only all the facts but all the intents. We cannot ever say to God but I meant it this way.

We are reminded at the anointing of David in *1Sa 16:7* ***But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.***

We are told to pass our time here in fear. Notice some verses that address this.

Deu 6:2 ***That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged.***

Pro 14:26-27 ***In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge. 27 The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.***

Our concept of fear is one of great dread and anguish. Wait till your daddy gets home is designed to invoke a knee knocking emotion. Fear here is a holy reverence a sense of God’s greatness and holiness. If we name the name we should carry the family name with honor and dignity and not trash it.

V- The Basis of our Obedience is Christ Sacrifice:

Would you not agree that we will do things for love that we would never do for any other reason. We can be motivate by fear, by anger, by self motives, by principle and many others but love is the strongest motivator to do what the object of our affect desires.

I submit to us all that the love of God displayed

