

Studies in 1 Peter - Discussion Guide for Community Groups

Session 6: Laying Aside (1 Peter 2:1-3)

Background

In this passage of scripture, Peter very closely parallels Paul's teaching in Ephesians 4:17-24. Paul encouraged the Ephesians to "lay aside" the old man, and to "put on" the new man. This is a good summery of the Holy Spirit's transformative work in our lives. We are actively laying aside, turning away, and repenting from sin as the Holy Spirit enables us; and simultaneously, we are putting on the new man by embracing the spiritual disciplines that help us grow. We also need to be assured that as we submit our lives and our behavior to Jesus, He will indeed be the author and the finisher that makes our faith substantive.

Bible Text: 1 Peter 2:1-3 NKJV

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.

Are you a "nice" person? Do you abhor gossip, or do you participate? Human behavior is generally deplorable. It is why the world seems to be upside down. That is not the kind of behavior that should be found in the Church. The Church should be a place where people not only find God's grace, but also the grace of God's people. A key characteristic of Jesus' Church should be love—which is demonstrated in forgiveness, encouragement and kindness.

- How do we go about showing kindness to one another?
- How are you emotionally effected by words of edification?

Read Verse 1: Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking...

- What would compose your list of the top 5 things that you should lay aside? (Or things that you have already put aside?)
- Is there any benefit to "hanging on" to sin? (What are some of the obvious consequences of sin in our lives?)
- Notice that this particular list of sin, deals with the kind of sin that destroys our relationships with others. What is the impact or fruit of these particular behaviors in the context of the Church?

Read Verses 2 & 3: ...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.

- How would you define or describe “the pure milk of the word?”
- How does the Word of God assist us in our spiritual growth?
- How has the Lord demonstrated His grace in your life?

Wrap-up: King David beautifully describes God’s grace in Psalm 145:8-9 The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, Slow to anger and great in mercy. [9] The LORD is good to all, And His tender mercies are over all His works.

- It is not only the Bible that reveals the difference between the depravity of man and the grace of God. One only needs to spend a little time studying the history of mankind to be convinced of mankind’s need for God. We need God to save us from our sin and to turn us from our wicked behavior. God is indeed “slow to anger and great in mercy!”