

“Christian Conduct”
1 Peter 2:1-12
3/27/22
Message 3

Introduction

- Title of the Message is: “Christian Conduct”

- **Illustration – What is a Christian?**

- *In the LETTER TO DI-OG-NE-TUS, which dates back to the 2nd century A.D.*
 - *An anonymous writer describes a strange people who are in the world but not of the world.*
 - *“Christians are not differentiated from other people by country, language, or customs; you see, they do not live in cities of their own, or speak some strange dialect... They live in both Greek and foreign cities, wherever chance has put them. They follow local customs in clothing, food, and other aspects of life. But at the same time, they demonstrate to us the unusual form of their own citizenship. They live in their own native lands, but as aliens... Every foreign country is to them as their native country, and every native land as a foreign country. They marry and have children just like everyone else, but they do not kill unwanted babies. They offer a shared table, but not a shared bed. They are passing their days on earth, but are citizens of heaven. They obey the appointed laws and go beyond the laws in their own lives. They love everyone, but are persecuted by all. They are put to death and gain life. They are poor and yet make many rich. They are dishonored and yet gain glory through dishonor. Their names are blackened and yet they are cleared. They are mocked and bless in return. They are treated outrageously and behave respectfully to others. When they do good, they are punished as evildoers; when punished, they rejoice as if being given new life. They are attacked by Jews as aliens and are persecuted by Greeks; yet those who hate them cannot give any reason for their hostility. Anonymous*

- We truly are a strange “peculiar” people
 - We have a different conduct from the world we live in
 - This is what we were going to talk about this morning Christian Conduct

• **Context – Review**

- We are in the midst of a study in 1 Peter
- The Reason Peter wrote this letter
 - Persecution Beginning to hit the Church
 - Peter wanted to Encourage them
- So Far we have seen
 - 1 Peter 1:1-12 - We Have Living Hope
 - 1 Peter 1:13-25 - An Appeal To Holiness
- Now to 2 Peter 2
 - Since you have this HOPE
 - Since we are to be HOLY
 - We have a responsibility to live correctly
 - People are watching – this is your time to SHINE

• **So This Morning we will look at 4 powerful truths in regards to Christian Conduct**

- Christian Conduct In Spiritual Growth vs. 1-3
- Christian Conduct As Living Stone vs. 4-8
- Christian Conduct As A Sacrifice vs. 9-10
- Christian Conduct In Abstaining From Fleshy Lusters vs. 11-12

Christian Conduct In Spiritual Growth vs. 1-3

• **First: How to Respond to the Eternal Word of God vs. 1-3**

○ **1st Therefore v. 1a**

1 Peter 2:1 (NKJV)

1 Therefore, *laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking,*

- When we see THEREFORE
 - We ask?...
- It's therefore because Peter has just demonstrated the glory and eternal character of God's word.
- He has just shown them in chapter 1 that they have a LIVING HOPE and a CALL to LIVE HOLY
- So In light of that CALL – Live accordingly

○ **2nd Behavior we are to leave behind v. 1b**

1 Peter 2:1 (NKJV)

1 Therefore, *laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking,*

- **Laying Aside**
 - Because we're partakers of the divine life
 - We should put away once for all the following unloving acts
- **Malice**
 - The harboring of evil thoughts against another person.
 - It nourishes resentment

- It builds up grudges
- It secretly hopes that revenge, harm, or tragedy will overtake another.

▪ **Deceit**

- Any form of dishonesty and trickery
- It Falsifies income tax returns
- It cheats on exams
- It lies about age
- It bribes officials
- It pulls shady deals in business.

▪ **Hypocrisy**

- Insincerity, pretense, sham.
- The hypocrite is a play-actor - pretending to be someone he is not.
- *Pretends to be spiritual on Sundays but is as carnal as a goat on weekdays.*
- **Pretends to GAIN**

▪ **Envy**

- It's jealousy
- *Vine Defines –*

- *As the feeling of displeasure produced by observing or hearing of the advantage or prosperity of others.*

- Christian

- Should rejoice at the good news of others
- Remember your path is not someone's else's
- You may have to suffer while others do not
- Be faithful in what He has called you to

- **Evil Speaking**

- Backbiting
- Malicious gossip
- Slander
- The attempt to make oneself look better by slinging mud at someone else.

- **All of these are serious SINS**

- They are violations of the fundamental commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves.
- No wonder Peter tells us to decisively rid ourselves of them.

- **2nd As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word v. 2**

1 Peter 2:2 (NKJV)

2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,

- **As Newborn Babes**

- Does not necessarily mean that Peter's readers were New Believers!
 - They may have been saved for several years.
 - But young or old in the faith, they should thirst for the word just as infants cry for milk.
- Now Paul will Milk in a negative way
 - I wanted to give you meat but you are still stuck on Milk
 - Peter is using it in a positive way

▪ **The word DESIRE is strong**

- In the Septuagint - It is used for man's deepest longing for God!
- As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God (Psalm 42:1).
- It speaks of the desire each believer should have for the word of God.

▪ **The Pure Milk of the Word**

- The Word in the Greek = Logos
- Logos Defined = As true to real nature, pertaining to being genuine, spiritual reasonable, sensible, pertaining to mind and heart
- As Believers we want the PURE WORD
 - NO Fluff
 - NOT Just the word that makes me feel better
 - We want ALL of IT

- 2 things

- 1st Churches have a responsibility to God to feed His sheep

- Meyer; “The failure to either desire or to receive this pure milk of the word is the reason for so many problems in both individual Christian lives and in congregations. “The sickly condition of so many Christians sets forth a lamentable complaint of the food with which they are supplied. To say nothing of strong meat, they do not even get milk. Hence the Church of God too much resembles the wards of a children’s hospital.”

- 2nd Sadly Carnal Christians are okay with impure milk –

- In many ways they prefer it

- That you may grow thereby:

- The Word of God is necessary for the growth of the Christian.
 - Want to GROW – Desire the Word
 - The OT is SO important to our growth

- **3rd If indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious v. 3**

1 Peter 2:3 (NKJV)

3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

- If we have received from God and have tasted (personally experienced) that the Lord is gracious,

- Then we have great reason and responsibility to receive the word in the enthusiastic way that babies receive their milk.

Christian Conduct As Living Stone vs. 4-8

• First: Coming to Jesus vs. 4-5

○ 1st Coming to Him as to a living stone v. 4a

1 Peter 2:4 (NKJV)

4 Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious,

- Peter's picture here
 - That God is building a spiritual temple (a spiritual house)
 - Using living stones (Christians)
 - From Those who have come to the ultimate living stone (Jesus)

○ 2nd Rejected indeed by men v. 4b

1 Peter 2:4 (NKJV)

4 Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious,

- Structure of this sentence in the Greek mean = Continually Rejected
- Not just once at the cross but on going
- Meaning = We too if we follow Jesus will also know Rejection

○ 3rd Chosen by God and precious v. 4c

1 Peter 2:4 (NKJV)

4 Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious,

- As much as God chose Israel
 - So the church is also chosen.
- Christ is the stone of salvation honored by God
- **4th A Holy Priesthood v. 5**

1 Peter 2:5 (NKJV)

*5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, **a holy priesthood**, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

- A Holy Priesthood:
 - OT Priest
 - Go between from man to God
 - Offered Sacrifices for the sins of the people
 - NT The believer is his own priest before God
 - He does not need any mediator except his great High Priest, Jesus
 - You have direct access to God the Father through Jesus the Son
- More on this in a minute

• Third: The glory of the Chief Cornerstone vs. 6-8

- **1st Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone:**

1 Peter 2:6 (NKJV)

6 Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, “Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.”

- Being built into a spiritual house

- There is no doubt who our Chief Cornerstone is.
- Jesus
- He is the Chief Cornerstone in the work of building the church.
- What is the Chief Cornerstone?
 - A chief cornerstone is the starting point of a building
 - Everything is laid out according to its connection to the chief cornerstone.
 - Because it stands at the corner, the same stone is the starting place for two
 - NOW Jesus set out the course for both Jew and Gentile to be joined together into one glorious house for God.
 - This in itself was a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense for the Jews
 - Who thought that Gentiles should not have equal share with the Jews into God's great house.
- **2nd Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious v. 7a**

1 Peter 2:7 (NKJV)

7 Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, *"The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,"*

- Though this chief cornerstone is rejected by the disobedient and unbelieving
- He is precious to those (US) who believe

- One way to know if a person has truly Biblical faith is to see if Jesus is truly precious to them.
- Christ is precious inherently
- Christ is precious positively
- Christ is precious comparatively.
- Christ is precious supremely
- **3rd The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone: vs. 7b-8**

1 Peter 2:7–8 (NKJV)

7 Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; **but to those who are disobedient, “The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,”**
8 and “A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense.” They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.

- **1st Those who reject the Chief Cornerstone and refuse to build on Him instead stumble over Him.**
 - Instead of being their salvation
 - Jesus becomes to them a rock of offense.
 - Jesus quoted this passage from Psalm 118 in regard to Himself (Matthew 21:42).

Matthew 21:42 (NKJV)

42 Jesus said to them, ***“Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD’s doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes’?***

Psalm 118:22 (NKJV)

22 The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone.

- **To all Those who don’t believe**

- Jesus is a STONE of Stumbling

- **Illustration**

- There is a legend in connection with the building of Solomon's temple that perfectly illustrates this prophecy.
- The stones for the temple were prepared in advance in a nearby quarry.
- As they were needed, they were raised up to the building site.
- One day the workers in the quarry sent up a stone of unique shape and proportions.
- The masons saw no place for it in the building so they carelessly pushed it over the hill where, in time, it became overgrown with moss and surrounded with weeds.
- As the temple neared completion,
 - The masons called for a stone of certain dimensions.
- The men in the quarry replied,
 - "We sent that stone up to you long ago."
 - After careful search, the discarded stone was found and was set in its proper place in the temple.
- The application is obvious.
 - The Lord Jesus presented Himself to the nation of Israel at His First Coming
 - The people, and especially the rulers, had no room for Him in their scheme of things.

- They rejected Him and delivered Him to be crucified.
- But God raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His own right hand in heaven.
- When the Rejected One returns to earth the second time
 - He will come as King of kings and Lord of lords.
 - He will then be publicly manifested as the chief cornerstone.

Zechariah 12:10 (NKJV)

10 *“And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.*

Christian Conduct As A Sacrifice vs. 9-10

• **Fourth: The privileged place of God’s people vs. 9-10**

- **1st But you are a chosen generation v. 9a**

1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV)

9 **But you are a chosen generation**, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

- The things that once exclusively belonged to Israel –
 - Their election (chosen)
 - Priesthood
 - Calling are now no longer the property of Israel alone.

- These are now the property of every Christian
 - We have them in a greater and spiritual sense.
- Chosen Generation
 - Chosen by God before the foundation of the world to belong to Christ (Eph. 1:4)

○ **2nd A Royal Priesthood v. 9b**

1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV)

*9 But you are a chosen generation, **a royal priesthood**, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;*

- **1st Again, we see that we're Priest!!!**
 - OT Priest went before God for the People
 - NT we have complete access to God – NO need for a priest
- **The Function of the Priest was to**
 - To Stand before
 - People to represent God
 - To stand before God
 - On behalf of the People We stand before People representing the Lord
- **For us Today**
 - 1st At HOME – Priest in your family
 - Stand before your spouse and kids as a visible illustration to them of what the Lord is like

- 2nd In the World –
 - The world is our Pulpit:
- 3rd Prayer
- **Note the Connection between OT Priest and NT Priest**
 - Found in Exodus 29 & Leviticus 8
 - This was the Preparation that they went thru before entering into their Priestly Ministry
 - This serves as a wonderful Picture of our calling and equipping by the Lord to be His Priests
 - 6 Things done to Aaron and his sons to SEPARATE them to the office of the priest
 - NOT DONE BY Aaron and his sons
 - But Done TO
 - **1st They were Brought to the door v. 4**

Exodus 29:4 (NKJV)

4 “And Aaron and his sons you shall bring to the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and you shall wash them with water.

- STEP ONE - They were BROUGHT to the DOOR of the Tabernacle
- Jesus is the Door to God – and we have been BROUGHT to Jesus
- **2nd Cleansed - WASHED With WATER v. 4**

Exodus 29:4 (NKJV)

4 “And Aaron and his sons you shall bring to the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and you shall wash them with water.

- This symbolized being Purified from all uncleanness
- So too the first thing the Lord does to us when we come to Him is He cleanses us from all of our Sin
- The Water speaks of the Lord Jesus Christ TRANSFORMING the life of the believer through the truth of His Word

○ **3rd They Were DIVINELY CLOTHED v. 5**

Exodus 29:5 (NKJV)

5 Then you shall take the garments, put the tunic on Aaron, and the robe of the ephod, the ephod, and the breastplate, and gird him with the intricately woven band of the ephod.

- Now we don't have time to go into each aspect of their clothing
 - So I will only mention 3
- 1st Coats - Speak of our righteousness
 - Righteousness that has been imputed to us – thru Christ
 - Father sees us in His Son – His Righteousness covers us Like a Robe
- 2nd Girdle In the Priest case It was a sache.... a big belt that tied in front
 - Men wore robes and thus they needed to be GIRDED UP to free him up to run or work
 - The Girdle speaks of Freedom for service Speaks of SERVICE and USEFULNESS

- 3rd Turban – Head covering -
 - Exodus 28:40 And you shall make hats for them, for glory and beauty
 - Truly our Lord has put upon his people his own glory and beauty.
 - We are not merely acceptable, but beloved: not passable, but admirable:
 - We not only Under No Condemnation – but God has imparted to us – His LOVELINESS

○ 4th Anointed

Exodus 29:7 (NKJV)

7 And you shall take the anointing oil, pour it on his head, and anoint him.

- This speaks of the ANOINTING of the Holy Spirit

○ 5th Consecrated v. 20

Exodus 29:20 (NKJV)

20 Then you shall kill the ram, and take some of its blood and put it on the tip of the right ear of Aaron and on the tip of the right ear of his sons, on the thumb of their right hand and on the big toe of their right foot, and sprinkle the blood all around on the altar.

- Blood was placed upon the RIGHT EAR, the RIGHT THUMB and the RIGHT BIG TOE
- Speaks of Covering and Possession & Leading

○ 6th Their hands were filled v.24 Wave offering

Exodus 29:24 (NKJV)

24 and you shall put all these in the hands of Aaron and in the hands of his sons, and you shall wave them as a wave offering before the LORD.

- NOTE: The Lord filled their hands... they did NOT fill their own
- What we have to give to the Lord is from Him in the first place
- TODAY To offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ:
 - 1st The presentation of the body as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God.
 - This is an act of spiritual worship (Rom. 12:1)
 - 2nd The sacrifice of praise.
 - “That is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name” (Heb. 13:15).
 - 3rd The sacrifice of good works.
 - “Do not forget to do good....” This sacrifice is pleasing to God (Heb. 13:16).
 - 4th The sacrifice of possessions
 - “Do not forget ... to share.” This sacrifice also is pleasing to the Lord (Heb. 13:16).
 - 5th The sacrifice of service.
 - Paul speaks of his ministry to the Gentiles as a priestly offering (Rom. 15:16).
 - **3rd His own special people v. 9c**

1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV)

*9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, **a holy nation, His own special people,** that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;*

▪ **1st A Holy Nation**

- Set Apart People
- It was God's intention that Israel should be a nation distinguished by holiness.
- But the Israelites stooped to the sinful practices of their Gentile neighbors.
- So Israel has been set aside temporarily and the church is now God's holy nation.

▪ **2nd We are special (KJV Peculiar) because we belong to God.**

- Illustration
 - A museum may be filled with quite ordinary things: hats, canes, shoes, and so forth; but they may be significant because they once belonged to someone famous.
 - God takes ordinary people; and because He works in them, they are special.

○ **4th That you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light:**

1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV)

*9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, **that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;***

- So that we can proclaim the praises of Him who has done such great things for us.

- **5th Who once were not a people but are now the people of God v. 10**

1 Peter 2:10 (NKJV)

10 *who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.*

- Peter is again quoting from the Old Testament.
 - This time He's taking something from the book of Hosea.
 - Hosea was a prophet who had been commanded by God to marry a prostitute.
 - It would be a marriage that would be a picture of God's relationship with His people.
 - Both Paul and Peter have used this story
 - To be a picture of how God would one day take the Gentiles, who were "not His people", and show them mercy and make them God's people.

Christian Conduct In Abstaining From Fleshly Lusts vs. 11-12

- **First: When we come to Jesus, we are to abstain from fleshly lusts vs. 11-12**

- **1st Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims v. 11a**

1 Peter 2:11 (NKJV)

11 *Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,*

- *Wiersbe; A vagabond has no home; a fugitive is running from home; a stranger is away from home; a pilgrim is heading home*

- **2nd Abstain from fleshly lusts v. 11b**

1 Peter 2:11 (NKJV)

11 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,

▪ **Abstain from fleshly lusts**

- As sojourners and pilgrims, as those who recognize that this world is not their home, and that they have a home and a citizenship in heaven.
- This is the motivation to leave these earthy LUST behind
- I belong to another world – I need to live like that other world and for that other world

▪ **Which war against the Souls**

- Dies NOT just hurt the Flesh
- BUT our Souls

○ **3rd Having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles v. 12**

1 Peter 2:12 (NKJV)

12 *having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.*

- This kind of godly living makes our conduct honorable among those who don't know God yet.
- Even though they will mock you
- When they see you living the Christian Conduct
 - Not Self Rightfully BUT Genuinely
 - It will bring conviction – they will be forced to search their hearts

Closing

- In the Weeks to come Peter will teach us more on Christian Conduct
 - Submit to the Government
 - Submit to Employers
 - Husband and Wife Conduct
 - Let me close with this
 - The World is watching – Lets live as we have been CALLED