

**Peter's Epistles Series #4 (Part 1) -
1 Peter 2:1-10**

1. Share a specific experience about the goodness of the Lord in your life.
2. As you have experienced the goodness of the Lord in your life, what attitude should we have towards one another, especially regarding malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind, as stated in 1 Peter 2:1-2?
3. According to 1 Peter 2:4-5, we are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood (v.5). What is the criteria we need to have to be able to become a holy priesthood (v6).
4. What is your understanding about the role of a priest?
5. How does knowing that believers are chosen by God and called to be a royal priesthood and a holy nation affect your everyday life as a Christian?
6. How does recognizing God's mercy towards believers and our role as proclaimers of His goodness impact your approach to evangelism and sharing the message of Christ?

Questions raised through Mentimeter during the sermon on January 28, 2024, that have not been answered during the conversation:

1. Can you share a personal experience of living out this particular segment of scripture?

Answer: (Preacher to answer)

2. Does my Christian identity & citizenship mean to stoically choose to do the good & right thing every time?

Answer:

Certainly! We are called to live rightly in the eyes of the world and in the eyes of God. Therefore, we ought to strive to achieve that goal in our daily lives, regardless of the price we pay and the consequences. That's exactly what Peter's call to the elect in exile is in his letter (1 Peter).

However, our journey to perfection may not be easy, and we may fall from time to time. In His mercy, God will graciously forgive us should we fail to choose the right things. What we need to do is confess and repent, no matter how many times we fall. The assurance that God will forgive our sins will help us avoid becoming legalistic and fearing the possibility of falling. Recognizing our identity as Christians will constantly remind us to choose the right path.

3. How does a Christian live fearlessly in faith when they are afraid of being judged by society?

Answer:

When we uphold Biblical values in our daily lives, including the decisions we make, society may judge us because we live differently from them, even to the extent that they may hate us for the principles we hold. Jesus has warned us about this, stating that when we follow Him, the world may hate us. But be encouraged; before they hate us, they hated Jesus first (John 15:18).

Another source of encouragement when we are judged by society because of the Biblical values we hold comes from the epistle of Peter itself. Read 1 Peter 1:6-9. In those verses, Peter encourages the believers that at the end of suffering, they will find salvation for their souls. There is nothing more important than the salvation of our souls.

Just be sure that we are judged by society because of doing the right thing and not because of doing the wrong thing (1 Peter 2:20-24).

4. It's easy to lose sight of our priorities to Christ in a demanding world. Do you have any advice or encouragement for worshippers not to lose sight of Christian priorities in the corporate world?

Answer:

From time to time, we lose sight due to the distractions in our lives. Even the apostles who were with Jesus daily experienced the same thing. A clear example is Peter himself. At one moment, he was convicted and was the only apostle to say, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God,' when Jesus asked them, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' (Matthew 16:13-16). At other times, he was afraid and even denied Jesus (Luke 22:55-56; Matthew 26:69-75; Mark 14:66-72).

However, it changed dramatically after the apostles received the Holy Spirit in the upper room (Acts 2:1-3). From that point on, the apostles, including Peter, spoke boldly about Jesus and the Gospel.

Therefore, it is important to rely on the Holy Spirit actively working in our lives and to constantly be our advocate, our counsellor, and our comforter (John 14:26). If we live in obedience to God's word, we will not quench the Holy Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19), and as a result, He will help us even in times when we face temptation at works at home and anywhere else.

5. How do we reconcile between living as exiles and conforming to the world in our daily lives? We also shouldn't aim to stand out by being non-conformists too.

Answer:

As believers, we need to be aware of our identity and continue to live according to it; as a result, we do not compromise with the world for anything contrary to the Word of God. Having said this, it does not mean that we have to seclude ourselves from the world (John 17:14). In fact, the opposite is true. We live in the world so that we can be influencers for the world. We are called to be a blessing to the world, just as the Israelites are called to be a blessing to the nations. Christians are not only called to be a blessing to the world but also to be priests of the world (1 Peter 2:9).

However, we can't be a blessing to the world and be priests to the nations if we live in conformity with the world. Paul has urged us not to conform to the world but to be transformed by the renewal of our minds, so that by testing we may discern what is the will of God — what is good, acceptable, and perfect (Romans 12:1-2).

This does not mean that we live like hermits. We can still live and enjoy what the world offers within the boundaries of God's words. We can still mingle with our non-Christians friends and do business with them and still holding our Biblical values firmly.

6. Was Jesus a radical individual?

Answer:

Depending on what we mean by 'radical.' If we talk about radical in terms of His teaching, ministry, and life, certainly, the answer is yes. However, Jesus did not keep Himself distant from the world. In fact, He lived among the common people and ate with sinners but for the sake of saving them.

As followers of Jesus, we ought to imitate Him. We live in a radical way in the world not to judge the world but for the sake of saving the world through Christ. In this way, Jesus was not radical because He did not judge and keep Himself distant from the common people.

7. How do you reconcile the fact that we are strangers or aliens on earth but at the same time reach out to unbelievers who may find us strange or weird?

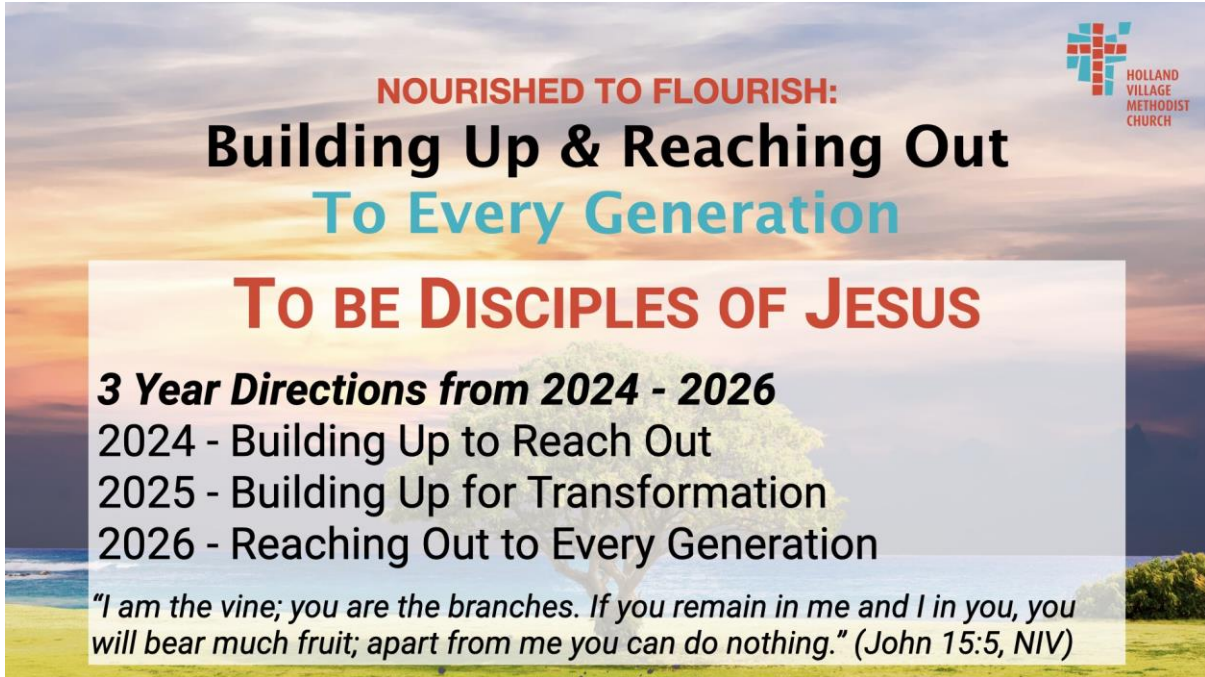
Answer:

This question is similar to question no. 5. Please refers to the answer to question no. 5 above.

8. In 1 Peter 1:12, what are the things that angels long to look?

Answer:

One commentator suggests that the things that the angels long to look at refer to the preaching that the evangelists delivered. As the readers of the epistle experienced all kinds of trials, they need encouragement to understand how to live in this world and why they are facing the suffering they experience. Though their sufferings are difficult, these Christians still have knowledge and experience that would make the prophets, and even the angels, envious. (1 Peter, Collaborative Commentary, ed. Peter R. Rodgers (Eugene, Or: An Imprint of Wipf and Stock Publishing, 2017), 29-30.




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2025 - Building Up for Transformation
2026 - Reaching Out to Every Generation

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5, NIV)



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