A Distinct Way of Life

Pastor Dave

Sunday Oct 25th, 2026

1 Peter 1:13-2:3

I'm Pastor Dave.

I hope you take some time to get involved.

Check out the Global Ministry Update this afternoon around the world or consider Joining God in the Neighborhood initiative for something closer to home to get involved right here.

I'm not a great baker.

In college, I tried my hand at baking peanut butter cookies.

I measured it, put it into the oven, and the next thing I know the alarm is going off and I'm waving smoke out of my dorm.

Apparently, someone told me that I should leave flour out of it because it was a flourless recipe.

They were not correct.

It's difficult to bake when you are missing ingredients.

Sometimes we approach spiritual life in the way

We focus on the things we should do read more, pray more, behave better, get our lives together.

Those things can matter.

The problem is if we approach our spiritual life like a recipe, we can miss the ingredients of what is important.

What if we can look healthy on the outside while something inside us is slowly dying?

Our bitterness, dishonesty, selfishness, and our unwillingness to forgive don't stay neatly contained within us.

We are being shaped, and we are shaping one another.

God's people are called to live holy lives, not in isolation, but to winsomely reflect God's character to the world around us.

Pastor Jeremy started us off in our series in 1 Peter called

Chosen for a Purpose: Living as Exiles on Mission

As God’s chosen people, we are called to live as “exiles” in this world.

This means those who are in the world but not of this world.

To be an exile is that we are in a home but not our home, because our ownership belongs elsewhere.
Our lifestyle is to be a witness; living differently points others to God.

1 Peter 1:13-2:3 it shows us A Distinct Way of Life

Make sure to leave your Bible open there as we go along.

Because to live a distinct life means to prioritize rightly so we aren't missing the ingredients of a spiritual life

The Ingredients of a Distinct Way of Life 1 Peter 1:13-2:3

Hope Rightly - 1:13-21

Love Deeply - 1:22 - 25

Desire Growth - 2:1-3

Christian community isn’t another place to look healthy; it is a place to learn to be healthy.

That happens when we Hope Rightly

1 Peter 1:13 Therefore,

Meaning, therefore as the prior verse says we are a people who are with Christ are God’s people in exile, chosen to follow him and chosen by Him.

with minds that are alert and fully sober,

We are to be people with focus.

I like video games and driving for long trips, both of those are easy place to fall into auto-pilot mode.

Driving, walking along, or in a game and suddenly, I have no idea how I ended up here.

It's possible to do the same thing with life.

We get up, go to school or work, see our friends, do our work, scroll away on the phone, and rinse and repeat the next day

Before long, we're busy all the time, but we've never really stopped to ask: Who am I becoming? What am I living for?

Following Jesus means we don't just go through the motions.

We pay attention to the kind of life we're living.

We are to be alert and fully aware.

The life of a Christian is not passive, but one that is on guard.

As we keep reading.

set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.

In Pickleball it's important to set the racket and the ball properly.

Set it up rightly using force of your swing and connecting to the ball.

To set your hope rightly is to focus your hope on that which make the most impact with your life.

I don't know about you, but I imagine it's difficult to play any sport not alert and not sober.

We are to set our hope on the gift of grace that Jesus gave us.

Because when we recognize Jesus as the Hope, life is focused for impact.

What God has done for us in Christ is always the setup for how we should live our lives.

What God has done for us in Christ is always the setup for how we should live our lives.

Our transformation begins with God's grace, not our effort to improve ourselves.

How we live are a people obedient

14 As obedient children,

My daughter calls me "Tato", its Ukrainian for Dad.

We are working on the obedience piece; she has trained me well to be obedient but still working on the other way around.

She recognizes me as Father and because of that trust it creates obedience

We are told to be obedient in trust, in that obedience, reject the past which destroys.

do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.

We are to live as those who are not conforming to evil and the way we once lived, but to be counter cultural.

We once lived in ignorance, not so much lacking information but lacking direction.

We failed to see and recognize the character of God and follow Him.

To be ignorant of God is to misconceive the nature and life of God

But,

15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”

Disobedient followers of Jesus see holiness as a side dish of life.

Something optional.

Obedient followers see Holiness as the way of life.

God is our standard of holiness, not the behaviour of someone who claims to be a Christian, or how good or bad the world around us is.

We are to be Holy because God is Holy.

We are to find our wholeness by being laser-focused on God's character.

A lot of the time, we think being good or being holy means avoiding bad behaviour.

Don't swear. Don't get angry. Don't do this, and don't do that.

This passage does call us not to give in to evil desires and

Maybe you think you're doing well as a Christian because you haven't done anything particularly bad lately.

Following Jesus and living holy lives is incomplete if all we focus on is what to avoid.

A Distinct way of Life means living in a way that reveals the Holiness of God

That focuses on winning the person over winning an argument.

To be holy is to recognize that we belong to God and He is the source of Holiness

Our transformation begins with God and is shaped by who He is.

To be shaped by God's character, we allow his Word to shape our whole lives:

how we think,

what we value,

how we treat people, and the choices we make.

We don't define holiness for ourselves or manufacture it through rule-keeping;

We respond to God's grace by allowing his character and Word to shape how we live.

Our lives are to become a testimony to the people around us.

We are given the task to be a light the world around us, but it comes with a responsibility.

[17] Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear.

Healthy fear does not contradict confidence.

A confident driver has a healthy fear of an accident which prevents them from being a fool with how they drive.

To both fear God and have confidence in God is to mean we have a recognition of His power, and we trust that He will keep his character.

God's love and care is combined with God's judgment.

It's not a mean God from the Old Testament and nice God from the New Testament.

He is one God, whose love invites us to trust him and whose holiness calls us to honour and respect him.

Being part of God's family is a great privilege, but that doesn't mean our disobedience is ignored.

We can become devoted to things that don't last; fame, fortune, power, or even good things like family and friends.

We can compromise what we believe for what gets us accepted.

When those things become what we value most, our priorities begin to change.

We stop being concerned with honouring God, and we become more concerned with protecting the thing we might lose.

We live a double life, the life we want church people to see, and the life others see.

Fearing God doesn't mean we live wondering whether he's going to stop loving us.

It means we take him seriously and live a united life.

We trust his goodness, respect his authority, and recognize that our choices matter to him.

We are to look to Christ as the source of Hope.

[19] but with the precious blood of Christ…He was chosen before the creation of the world… him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

The cost of the blood of Christ was high.

Material things that perish is compared with the eternal lifeblood of Christ that was spilled for us.

The grace of Christ is that he gave his own life so that we may be raised from death to life.

Grace is free. But grace is not cheap.

The story of humanity is this: we all sinned against God and could not make it right by any of our means.

The good news of Jesus is that he gave his life as a sacrifice and by his precious life we are brought into new life as we believe in Him

As he was raised to life, we are raised to life with him.

Many like to think God didn't know what he was doing, Adam and Eve sinned and God repaired it on the fly.

But Peter makes it clear, Jesus is not a victim, he is a willing sacrifice known before the creation of the world.

And He is our hope, our faith, our purpose, our reason to live

He is coming back for his people, and he wants his people to act like Him.

Those who are Holy, obedient, and conforming to His Word.

We are to place our Hope rightly in the gift of Christ, and to live in a way the reveals the authority, power, and Holiness of God.

And because of all that we

Love one another deeply 1 Peter 1:22–25

22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart

A changed life isn't meant to be lived alone; God's people are called to sincere, enduring love.

We love others because we know what it means to be loved by Jesus.

The best kind of work in my life is not the stuff I have to do but the stuff I get to do.

Love for each other is not a have to do it, it's a I get to do it.

I get to love you like family.

I get to love you like a stranger who becomes a friend.

Our community gets to love each other and love our neighborhood because of a common purpose of loving like Jesus loves us.

We are those who love each other because the core of our church is not in the pastors, or the staff, or the building or the workshops or the other wonderful things that make us Cornerstone or how friendly we are.

But our centre, our Cornerstone, is Jesus himself.

[23] For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. [24] For,

"All people are like grass,
and all their glory is like the flowers of the field;
the grass withers and the flowers fall,
[25] but the word of the Lord endures forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.

We will all wither away, buildings get old, people pass away or move away, programs stop,

but God's Word endures.

The Word of the Lord is the message of Jesus himself.

New life comes from the word of Jesus being planted in our heart.

Peter makes his final movement in 2:1-3

To Desire Growth

To put away destructive patterns and desire the nourishment that helps us grow in salvation.

1 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.

Because we are obedient children we rid ourselves of the qualities that interfere with love.

To grow in our salvation doesn't mean we get extra saved.

It means we show the world our salvation as a movement towards Jesus not just avoiding some things.

All the qualities of malice, anger, deceit, hypocrisy, envy and slander interfere with love.

We cannot love someone well when we envy what they have.

We cannot love our brother, when we hate him.

We cannot love our spouse, when we are slandering them.

We cannot reveal the love of Jesus, when we ignore the words of Jesus.

rid yourselves of all

Is to let Christ reveal and self-examine what keeps us from living in the way Jesus calls us to be.

When we are called to confession, we are called to a kindness, to give up the sin that is killing us.

Growth is impossible without removing the dead.

But growth is also impossible without nourishments which is why

We are to crave something better.

[2] Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,

Peter tells us to crave pure spiritual milk.

A deep desire beyond all other priorities.

We are new creations in Jesus; this is not about us being new believers.

In Christ, we are new creations, but that doesn't mean our growth is finished.

And if you are a new believer, or you're still exploring what it means to follow Jesus, I want you to hear this, too:

God invites you into a life of ongoing growth.

To grow and be challenged in all your belief.

Peter is urging all of us to desire rightly and desire deeply, because none of us is ever beyond the need to grow.

What is this spiritual milk?

It's the Word of God, through which we come to know Jesus and are continually shaped by him.

We need the message of Jesus personally and wholly.

We cannot know who Jesus is apart from the message God has revealed to us.

Through the work of the Holy Spirit, that message takes root in our lives and transforms us.

The whole story of Scripture points us to Jesus.

From the beginning to the end, the Bible tells the story of God's work to redeem his people through Jesus Christ.

All 66 books belong to this larger story of God's redemption, fulfilled in Jesus, and pointing toward his return.

We can get so focused on asking, “How can I get the most out of Scripture?”

that we forget to ask, “How can Scripture make the most out of me?”

Instead of trying to shape Scripture to fit us, we are called to let the Word of God shape us.

Spiritual growth means we are both being shaped relational, emotionally, and rationally.

Not a division but a transformation.

God is shaping us together into a loving family, a community that reflects the character of Jesus to the world around us.

We are experiencing the kindness of God in all circumstances.

Whatever your past may include, God is in the business of giving you a future with Hope.

Cultivate a genuine wonder toward God.

Keep returning to his Word. Keep examining your life. Keep growing in holiness and obedience to Jesus.

Step into Joining God in the Neighborhood to see what Jesus is doing and transform our perspective.

And as you experience the goodness of the Lord, don't keep it to yourself.

Be people who reveal the goodness of God to the world around us.

Benediction

After our benediction we will have a time of prayer, those who are serving in prayer ministry you may make your way forward right now.

Our benediction comes from Psalm 34

Psalm 34: [8] Taste and see that the LORD is good;
blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.
[9] Fear the LORD, you his holy people,
for those who fear him lack nothing.
[10] The lions may grow weak and hungry,
but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.