



Responding to the Truth

Sunday January 25, 2021

1 Peter 1:17-25 (ESV) And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰ He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you ²¹ who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

²² Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, ²³ since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;

²⁴ for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

Main point: The way we think about God affects the way we respond to him. In other words, what we believe about God and how He relates to us impacts the way we live.

This is why it's important to know that what we believe about God is in line with the scriptures.

The first thing I want you to Notice in this passage is the connection between Christian doctrine and Christian conduct.

- 1 Peter 1:17 (ESV) And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear...
- 1 Peter 1:18a, (ESV) you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers... with the precious blood of Christ... so that your faith and hope are in God.
- 1 Peter 1:22 (ESV) Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart.

What we believe about God and how He relates to us impacts the way we live. The way we live is in response to what we believe about God.

Three truths concerning God and what our response should be.

- God is our Father who judges impartially; our response should be to fear Him.
- God has ransomed us; our response should be faith and hope in Him.
- God has purified our souls; our response should be love one another from a pure heart

1. God our Father judges impartially God as our Father judges impartially; our response should be to fear Him.

We call on God as our "Father," because He.

1 Peter 1:3 (ESV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead

John 1:12 (ESV) But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God

Romans 8:15 (ESV) For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

That God is our Father means that He cares for us more than any earthly father could care for his own kids.

At the same time, Peter writes that the one we address as Father is also the One who impartially judges according to each one's work.

1 Peter 1:17 (ESV) And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile.

As a Father God doesn't show partiality. He doesn't have favorite kids, who he allows to get away with things. He doesn't turn a blind eye to the things we do whether they are good or bad. He sees everything we do and will reward us accordingly.

2 Corinthians 5:10 (ESV) For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

We all have to stand before our Father for an evaluation of our works, this truth should cause us to conduct ourselves with fear during our stay on earth (1:17)

Did Peter mean that believers should live in soul-destroying terror of God?

Utter terror, unquestionably, does not fit with the joy and boldness of the Christian life that Peter told them they were living with.

1 Peter 1:8-9 (ESV) Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The fear Peter is referring to in verse 17 is not a soul-destroying dread. It is a call to reverent fear.

Listen to the amplified Bible:

1 Peter 1:17 (AMP) If you address as Father, the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in [reverent] fear [of Him] *and* with profound respect for Him throughout the time of your stay *on earth*.

Fearing God is a positive rather than a negative thing. Fearing God keeps you out of trouble.

Exodus 20:20 Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come in order to test you, and in order that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not sin."

Proverbs 10:27 The fear of the Lord prolongs life, But the years of the wicked will be shortened.

God our Father judges impartially so our response should be a reverential fear of Him.

2. God has ransomed us; our response should be faith and hope in Him.

1 Peter 1:18-21 (ESV) knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold,¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.²⁰ He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you²¹ who

through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

"To ransom," or "to free by paying a price".

Mark 10:45 (ESV) "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

In the same way that the Passover lamb liberated the Israelites from physical bondage in Egypt, so the death of Jesus Christ frees us from the spiritual bondage of sin.

1 Peter 1:18 (ESV) knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers...

Our previous state before Christ was a "futile" (empty, vain, powerless, hopeless and unprofitable)

The price paid for our sins wasn't cheap.

1 Peter 1:18-19 (ESV) knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot

The very life of Jesus Christ, represented by the "precious blood", is infinitely of greater than silver and gold.

Our salvation was completely paid for

1 Peter 1:20-21 (ESV) He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you ²¹ who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

When we believe and embrace this truth then our response is faith and hope in Him.

Our attitude toward God, can and should be both reverential fear and confident faith and hope.

3. God has purified our souls; our response should be love one another from a pure heart

1 Peter 1:22-23 (ESV) Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, ²³ since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God.

When were our souls purified (cleansed)?

- When we heard the truth, the Gospel

1 Peter 1:25 (ESV) but the word of the Lord remains forever.” And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

- We believed and obeyed the truth (responded)

1 Peter 1:22 (ESV) Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth

- We were born again (changed and given a new and pure heart)

1 Peter 1:23 (ESV) since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God.

The response to this reality is a sincere love of the brethren with a pure heart.

A true conversion/change of heart results in love for others.

Conclusion: What we believe about God, His relationship to us and what He has done impacts the way we live. If we believe God is our heavenly Father and judges impartially; our response should be to fear Him. If we truly believe God has ransomed us; our response should be faith and hope in Him. If we believe God has purified our souls; our response should be to love one another from a pure heart.