

Conduct Yourselves in Fear!
1 Peter 1:17-21

I. Introduction

A. INTRO...WHAT DO YOU FEAR?

1. As a Christian – what do you fear?
2. Is FEAR part of your LIFE?
3. Do you fear men? WORRY about people's RESPONSE and ACTIONS toward you?
4. Are you concerned about HOW HIGHLY people ESTEEM YOU?
5. Do you fear LOSS OF POSITION or PROMOTION or PRESTIGE at WORK?
6. Do you fear your SPOUSE will REJECT YOU? LEAVE YOU?
7. Do you fear that GOVERNMENT will PERSECUTE you or TAKE AWAY FREEDOMS to the extent that you WORRY ABOUT THAT?
8. Do you fear people won't ACCEPT YOU?
9. Won't LIKE YOU? RESPECT you?
10. Any of these FEARS FUNDAMENTAL to your life?
 - a) Your MODUS OPERANDI?
 - b) Your MOTIVATION for DAILY BEHAVIOR?

B. OR – DO YOU FEAR ONLY GOD?

1. Do you fear Him as YOUR JUDGE?
2. Do you fear FACING HIM daily with your sin? SAY WHAT?

Hebrews 4:13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

 - a) EVERYTHING YOU DO – YOU DO IN FRONT OF THE THRONE OF GOD – GOOD AND BAD.
3. Do you fear FACING Jesus Christ in JUDGMENT?
 - a) Say what? MY SINS WERE JUDGED AT THE CROSS – I DON'T FACE ANOTHER JUDGMENT!
 - b) Yes you do.
 - c) AND your sins will count at that judgment.
 - d) 2 Cor 5:10

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
 - e) Paul said that this judgment was his MOTIVATION FOR PLEASING THE LORD!
 - f) Is it yours TOO?

C. You see –

1. The fear of MEN – IS SIN.
2. The fear of GOD – IS PROPER.

3. Paul

1 Corinthians 4:3-43 But to me it is a very small thing that I may be examined by you, or by any human court; in fact, I do not even examine myself.⁴ For I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but the one who examines me is the Lord.

- a) Human judgment is meaningless
- b) God's judgment is everything.
- c) Remember – God does use humans to carry out His judgment
- d) It's the source that's important!

D. Proposition: We are going to continue to study Peter's teaching on the response we must have to the great Salvation God has provided us SO THAT we can have the proper foundation when faced with trials.

E. first thing: our RESPONSE TOWARDS GOD.

F. IN THE MIDDLE OF several weeks ON THIS SUBJECT, but our RESPONSE TOWARDS GOD is to HOPE WITH FINALITY (vv.13-21).

G. We will study this Response to God with Three Questions

H. Remember – Peter is building a foundation for how to live victoriously in trials!

1. We are on the wall of HOPE!

I. TURN TO Passage to read...1 Peter 1:13-21

13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance,

15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; 16 because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

17 If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth;

18 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

20 For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these 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.

II. REVIEW: Hope With Finality!
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A. The FIRST response we must have to the great Salvation God has provided us SO THAT we can have the proper foundation when faced with trials. – IS our RESPONSE TOWARDS GOD.

B. HOPE with FINALITY (WHAT)

13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, FIX YOUR HOPE COMPLETELY on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1. Main Subject of 1:3-21 = HOPE
 - a) Verses:
 - (1) V.3 “a living hope”
 - (2) V.4 “an inheritance...reserved in heaven for you’
 - (3) V. 5 “a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time”
 - (4) V.13 “fix your hope completely”**
 - (5) V.21 “so that your faith and hope are in God”
 - b) V.3-12 FOCUSED on WHAT this hope IS (NOUN)
 - (1) All of the verbs are in the “indicative” - they state simple facts.
 - c) V.13 – there is a shift
 - (1) Followed by v.13-21 driven by COMMANDS (imperatives).
 - (2) Guess what? – shift TO VERB HOPE =V.13 fix your hope
 - (3) Literally: “fix your hope with finality”
 - (4) Peter – you owe it to God to fix your hope
 - (a) = to live for glorious fulfillment of His promise
 - d) “completely” =“WITH FINALITY”
 - (a) ->LOOKS AT COMPLETED ACTION:
 - (b) YOU MUST GET TO THE POINT WHERE YOUR HOPE IS FIXED WITH FINALITY AND STAY THERE!
2. “on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ”
 - a) grace – fix your hope on this PART of the 2nd coming – the grace part
 - b) Not
 - (1) event
 - (2) Christ
 - (3) glorification
 - c) When you were saved - it was ALL of God’s grace
 - d) AND when JC comes to give you the great salvation awaiting you- IT WILL STILL BE ALL OF GOD’S GRACE!
 - e) NOW – HOW does Peter want us to do this?**

<h2>C. HOW are we to do this?</h2>

1. GO back to v.13 for the Structure to see HOW we are to live out this “hope with finality”

13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, FIX YOUR HOPE completely ...

 - a) GREEK says: “Therefore, AFTER HAVING prepared your minds for action WHILE keeping sober in spirit, fix your hope with finality”
 - (1) BEFORE YOU CAN FIX YOUR HOPE with finality YOU MUST FIRST prepare your minds for action while being sober!

2. 1st HOW: "After having prepared your minds"

- a) 13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action.
 (1) Literally: "AFTER having prepared your minds for action"
 (a) Again YOU MUST BRING THE THOUGHTS OF YOUR MIND UNDER CONTROL!
 (b) = a SPIRITUALLY DISCIPLINED MIND!
 (c) GET CONTROL OF YOUR MIND FIRST!

3. 2nd HOW: While being in control

- a) NAS: "keep sober in spirit"
 b) Literally: "while keeping sober"
 c) "in spirit" is not in the Greek
 d) Best translated "WHILE KEEPING SOBER"
 (1) CONTINUAL ACTIVITY
 (2) PREPARE YOUR MIND WHILE keeping sober.
 e) = sobriety in life including action
 (1) = self-disciplined in action,
 (2) self-control, avoiding extremes
 (3) =not intoxicated with worldly enticements around you.
 (4) A spiritually-disciplined life
 f) Preparing your mind = obviously mental
 g) "while keeping sober" EMPHASIZES ACTIONS THAT KEEP YOU IN CONTROL OF YOURSELF
 h) Putting together – HAVING prepared your minds for action WHILE keeping sober in spirit =
 (1) AFTER HAVING spiritually disciplined your mind WHILE living a spiritually disciplined self-controlled life-style
 (2) THEN you MUST
 (3) In response to what God has given you in such a great salvation, LIVE IN HOPE such as this for the grace to come

D. V.14-16 HOW's 3 & 4!

14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance,

15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior;

16 because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

1. main verb is v.15 – BE HOLY yourselves
2. Hope produces Holiness (1Jn 3:2-3)
 - a) You live in hope, you live in holiness – PRODUCES / motivates holiness

3. 3rd HOW: Not conforming to the WORLD v.14

a) So, with Obedience as your nature – with this as your foundation, I call you to...

14 ... do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance,

- (1) – DON'T ACT LIKE YOU USED TO!
- (2) Make a complete break with your former life!
- (3) **DON'T BE CONFORMED TO THE WORLD**

4. 4th HOW – BE HOLY! V.15

15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior;

a) “But like the Holy One who called you”

(1) V.15 we should be like God because God said so

(a) Holy = SEPARATION FROM ALL THAT IS MORALLY IMPURE AND EVIL BEING IMMUTABLY (UNCHANGEABLY) HOLY FROM ALL ETERNITY

(b) Lev 11:45 I'm your God, you're My people. I am Holy, you be Holy

(c) Leviticus 19:2

2 “Speak to all the congregation of the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

(d) We're not to be holy for our sake – but for His sake! BECAUSE we are identified as His children

b) be holy yourselves also in all your behavior;

(1) “be holy” MEANS BECOME HOLY

(a) Michaels: “Make holiness your trademark”

(b) You are already holy in your POSITION before God

(c) You need to WORK THIS OUT in your PRACTICE

(d) Show forth in your lives the character of holiness which you possess

(e) Scripture tells us in many ways that we are to become holy – that it is a process NOT fully attained in this life!

(i) Phil. 3:12–14

12 Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

(2) “in all your behavior”= WHOLE MANNER OF LIFE/ WHOLE daily walk

5. **NOW – HOW ELSE does Peter want us to do this?**

III. V.17f...

A. Last “How” = Conduct yourselves in fear (v.17).

17 If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth;

1. "If you address as Father"

- a) "IF" = even if, EVEN THOUGH
- (1) EVEN THOUGH YOU ADDRESS GOD AS FATHER...
 - (2) Why this here? Remember
 - (a) V. 2 CHOSEN according to the foreknowledge of God the FATHER
 - (b) V.3 Blessed be the God and FATHER of our Lord Jesus Christ who according to HIS GREAT MERCY
 - (c) Peter has identified God AS FATHER who saved us according to HIS GREAT MERCY
 - (3) Now a WARNING – don't allow the truth of God's great fatherly MERCY that brought this GREAT SALVATION obscure His awful HOLINESS and JUSTICE!
- b) "address as Father"
- (1) "address" = call upon = Even though you CALL UPON GOD AS FATHER...
 - (2) REMEMBER TOO - Jesus brings us view of God as Father
 - (a) Jesus Christ breaks with tradition in calling Him Father
 - (b) Jews worshiped Him as Creator / Redeemer
 - (c) V.3 Peter said, No – bless God AS the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
 - (d) Jesus first to call God Father
 - (i) John 4:23-24 true worshipers shall worship the FATHER in spirit and in truth
 - (ii) Jn 5:17 – My Father
 - (iii) Jn 5:18 – I and the Father are one
 - (iv) Jn 14 – seen Me, seen Father
 - (v) ONLY time Jesus did not use the name Father - on the cross- MY GOD why have you forsaken...
 - (e) WE can only say God is our Father because He has put His life in us!
 - c) Peter: You've got this intimate relationship to God through this great salvation and you can call Him Father – BUT remember...
 - d) You are also in a relationship with the One who impartially judges according to your works and you'd better conduct your life with fear. – YOU KNOW THIS KNOWING GOD!

2. Look at the rest of the verse...

17 If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth;

- a) main verb: conduct yourselves in fear
- (1) VERSE EMPHASIS
 - (a) ON THE JUSTICE of GOD – GOD AS JUDGE
 - (b) NOT on God being Father.

b) “the One who impartially judges according to each one’s work”

(1) “judges”

- (a) judgment in the sense of evaluating to discover the true nature of the person judged.
- (b) Judgment includes reaching a decision – approval or disapproval.
- (c) Verb – Present tense – God is presently, CONTINUALLY, judging you.
 - (i) Therefore – not referring to the final judgment
 - (ii) Also –not referring to unbelievers
 - (iii) This is the response of Christians to the great salvation God has provided!

(2) “impartially”

- (a) fascinating word! – used 4X in NT.
- (b) Compound word – “face” and “to receive”
- (c) Means “does not receive your face”
- (d) Impartiality = not determined by OUTWARD APPEARANCE
- (e) No FAVORITISM!

(3) EVEN THOUGH

- (a) You are CHOSEN
- (b) You have a GREAT SALVATION
- (c) You call upon God as FATHER
- (d) YOU WILL BE IMPARTIALLY JUDGED.

(4) “according to each one’s work”

- (a) What work?
- (b) V.15
 - 15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior;
 - (i) = WHOLE MANNER OF LIFE
 - (ii) = WHOLE daily walk
 - (iii) v.17 WORK = SINGULAR
 - (a) v. 15 singular
 - (b) “work” SUMMARIZES
- (c) Peter: “work” summarizes the WHOLE of your behavior
- (d) I.e. God judges you when your behavior is “off track” or “on average” failing God’s standard.
 - (i) AN AREA OF YOUR LIFE is in sin
- (e) Remember Hebrew 12:4-11
 - 4 You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin;
 - 5 and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons,

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,
Nor faint when you are reprov'd by Him;

6 For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines,
And He scourges every son whom He receives.”

7 It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons;
for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?

8 But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers,
then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

9 Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we
respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of
spirits, and live?

10 For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but
He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness.

11 All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful;
yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the
peaceful fruit of righteousness. = JUDGMENT of 1Peter

- (f) v.15 is to BECOME HOLY =Process
 - (i) God is not waiting to JUMP ON YOU for any minor infraction of His HOLY STANDARD of RIGHTEOUSNESS
 - (ii) God is watching and JUDGING you WITH APPROVAL
- (g) BUT if instead of BECOMING HOLY, your ARE BEING SINFUL, or worse yet BECOMING MORE SINFUL
 - (i) God JUDGES you with DISAPPROVAL per Hebrews 12
 - (ii) TO GET YOU BACK ON TRACK of BECOMING HOLY!
- (5) Even though 1Peter 1:17 FOCUSES on CURRENT judgment of sin, believers ALSO face ONE MORE JUDGMENT
 - (a) BEMA SEAT = Look at 2 Cor 5:10

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

 - (i) That's the final judgment we face.
 - (ii) Notice v.9

9 Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.

10 FOR we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
 - (iii) Final Judgment is Paul's MOTIVATION to PLEASE the LORD TODAY!
 - (b) YOU SEE – BEMA Seat is a REWARDS judgment...
 - (c) Turn to 1 Cor 3:10

10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.

11 For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,

13 each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.

14 If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward.

15 If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

(d) What does this say?

(i) You will be REWARDED for the good you have done

(ii) You will LOSE REWARD for the bad you have done as a Christian.

(iii) You MAY get in by the "skin of your teeth"

(e) Again – this is not Peter's focus here BUT

(i) It is the focus of Paul in 2 Cor 5

(ii) James in James 5:7f

James 5:8-9

8 You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

9 Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.

(6) SO – when you know God is the IMPARTIAL JUDGE of your LIFE what is to be your response?

c) "Conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth"

(1) Literally: "in fear the time of your sojourning pass"

(a) VERB = Pass – CONDUCT =COMMAND

(b) Constantive Aorist views actions in their totality, =entirety view.

(i) This is the broadest category of usage for the aorist.

(2) "in fear"

(a) in the EMPHATIC POSITION – at beginning of phrase!

(b) "fear" = phobo = we get "PHOBIA"

(c) 47X in NT as noun– FIVE in 1 Peter!

(d) 103X as verb – THREE here

(e) EIGHT TIMES – FEAR!

(f) MAJOR THEME!

(g) 1:17 – this verse

(h) 1 Peter 2:17

17 Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.

- (i) 4 commands: honor, love, fear, honor
- (ii) Notice WHO you fear
- (iii) NOT MEN! But GOD!

(i) 1 Peter 2:18

18 Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable.

- (i) Literally: servants subject yourselves (command) to your masters IN ALL FEAR – OF GOD

(j) 1 Peter 3:1-2

1 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, 2 as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.

- (i) Literally: having observed your IN FEAR (OF GOD) pure (HOLY) behavior!

(k) 1 Peter 3:6

6 just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.

- (i) Literally: doing good and not fearing any terror- OF MEN

(l) 1 Peter 3:13-14

13 Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good?
14 But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled,

- (i) Literally: and OF THEIR FEAR DO NOT BE AFRAID NOR BE TROUBLED!

(m) 1 Peter 3:15-16

15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; 16 and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.

- (i) V.15 Literally: with gentleness and fear.- OF GOD

(3) MANY would say = in reverence, awe, respect, honor!

(a) BUT look at the context!

(b) “in fear” COMES IMMEDIATELY after the identification of God and HIS JUSTICE

(c) Kelly: “Peter’s point is since the God whom his readers address as Father is to be their judge, they would be wise to have a healthy dread of His judgment and shape their behavior accordingly, not

relying on their status as privileged children for His decisions will be determined solely by the quality of each man's actions."

- (4) Fear = FEAR of a good father = fear knowing that although God is perfectly JUST and RIGHTEOUS He is also perfectly loving, merciful, kind, gracious, etc.
- (5) Fear KNOWING God KNOWS THE BEST FOR YOUR SANCTIFICATION
- (6) Yes – part REVERENCE and AWE – BUT HERE FOCUSED on CONCERN for the CHASTENING you MAY face FOR your UNHOLY BEHAVIOR.

IV. Conclusion

1. WORK ENVIRONMENT – we let the potential for REPRIMAND, OR LOSS motivate us to work harder.
 - a) We “fear” that our company could JUDGE us and take away position or job
 - b) We don't or SHOULDN'T operate DAILY in fear
 - c) But its there as a LINE that we don't want to cross over.
 2. HOW MUCH MORE SO SHOULD WE REGARD our GOD as our judge
 - a) Fear REPRIMAND / CHASTENING in our life BECAUSE we haven't performed to HIS HOLY STANDARD?
 - b) I think we keep God at SUCH A DISTANCE that it is EASY TO FEAR THE WORLD CLOSE TO US
 - c) AND NOT the GOD WHO WE KEEP FAR FROM US.
- B. Do you have fear for God's holiness and understand how He will judge?**
1. Sin – this life's chastening (Heb 12)?
 2. Bema Seat – final rewards and potential loss?
- C. The more a Christian knows God intimately the more he fears God.**
1. YOU MUST KNOW GOD MORE TO FEAR GOD MORE
 2. HAVE TO BE AROUND HIM A LOT!
 - a) In the WORD /In PRAYER
 - b) With HIS PEOPLE / DOING HIS WORK
 3. Then you are able to FEAR HIM more than the SURROUNDING WORLD.
- D. The more he fears God, the more he fears to offend God – longs to honor Him!**
- E. I don't think we can SOFTEN the WORD of GOD when it comes to FEARING GOD – and ALWAYS convert it to HONOR or REVERENCE or AWE.**
- F. FEARING God is proper AS LONG AS it is BALANCED against His other attributes of LOVE, MERCY, COMPASSION, KINDNESS, GRACE, etc.**
- G. HE IS BALANCED in His PERFECTION and we must approach Him as He is.**
- H. WHEN you KNOW that GOD has the BEST in PLAN for you – HE KNOWS BEST, HE DOES BEST**
- I. THEN fear Should motivate you to not put yourself in a position where that BEST for you IS CHASTENING – THROUGH TRIALS.**