

The First letter of Peter

LEADERS NOTES

Week 3 (1 Pt 1.13-25)

In the ESV there are five imperatives in the passage whilst others have more. As far as I can see this more accurately reflects the original Greek although otherwise fairly literal translations like the King James and New American Standard also have more which appear to me to be participles. The five:

- set your hope (v13)
- do not be conformed (v14)
- be holy (v15)
- conduct yourselves with fear (v17)
- love one another (v22)

1. The NIV and others also have “prepare your minds” and “be self-controlled”.

The literal translation of v13 is “gird up the loins of your mind”. Girding up the loins involved tucking a long robe through the legs and up and then tying it around the waist (a bit like a nappy) so that the wearer was then free for running, action or indeed combat. The expression is found several times in the Bible.

2. The therefore links it back to what has already been said.

3. In particular we have been reminded of what God has done for us in Christ and also of being grieved through trials.

4. Preaching can sometimes just become moralising where the preacher tells people to do certain things without any motivation.

British values, which have recently been introduced, are an attempt to deal with the problem of mass immigration and the threat to what are considered to be the common values we hold (which of course are in large part rooted in our Christian heritage).

The motivation for Christian conduct is varied as we see in this passage but the supreme motivation is our gratitude to God for what He has done for us in Christ.

5. The heart of our faith is the facts of who Christ is and His work etc. Christian faith is not about disengaging the mind but about minds that are prepared for action and sober.

6. “do not be conformed” - like their former ignorance
“be holy...” - as God is holy

7. You might get different things for this answer.
Being obedient children is one possible.
Another it that we are called by God who is holy.

8. The Leviticus passage echoes some of the ten commandments in particular honouring parents, keeping the sabbaths and avoiding idolatry.

I am not sure of the answer to this in how honouring parents relates to the holiness of God yet it does seem to be part of God’s ordering of creation.

The ten commandments specifically say to keep the sabbath day holy - it should be different to other days and devoted to the Lord. Idolatry is to make other things which we then honour them as holy in place of God.

9. Many places in the New Testament show us that reverent fear is right and proper. Whilst that may be what Peter means here it could also be that we should fear the consequences of our sin and the judgement of God. Whilst that may not be the best motive, it is better to fear and obey then to sin.

10. Notice the word “knowing” at the start of verse 10 which links what he goes on to say to the imperative.
So in addition to fear, knowing what God has done in Christ is also our motive for how we conduct ourselves.

12. Again there is much that might be said but we see in these verses the plan and purpose of God being worked out in that Christ

was foreknown and his coming was in the last times for our sake. Therefore we are not in a world of uncertainty to God and so we can have confidence that his purposes are being worked out. In addition since Christ was manifest for our sake we can see that God’s purposes do work for our good even if we have to endure various trials in the present.

13. This verse says that our souls are purified by obedience to the truth - and we are to love one another.

14. It is hopefully obvious that if we are not part of the household of faith then we cannot love one another in the way we should.

15. These few verses also describe the spiritual blessing we have because of the word of God. In particular although being born again is by the work of the Holy Spirit yet here it says that we are born again by the living and abiding word of God - the gospel. That seed is imperishable, so obedience to the truth will produce fruit that will endure.

16. We are born again through the word of God which is the gospel that is preached - therefore, we see again that in the purposes of God when people preach the gospel so others are born again. We cannot give new life, but we can preach the gospel and trust God to work through this.

17. Jesus cuts short what he had already said in verse 12, focussing here on the fact of loving obedience. We should love one another because Jesus commands it. This ought to be a good motive.

18 But even more so, we should love others because Christ has loved us. Therefore, what Peter has already written about how Christ loved us in his death and so on, should also stir us up to love one another.

*David Phillips,
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