

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

1 Peter 1:14-25

Normal result of family relationship: children grow up to be like their parents – even when we say that we don't want to be like them. People normally come out that way!

Our mother's or our father's thumbprint is indelibly stamped on our life. That's how way it ought to be with **God our Father**.

If we are His children, we ought to look and act like Him.

The more I get to know God, the more I want to be like Him.

I discover that He's holy, and I want to be holy.

I discover His love and I want to love others.

I want to be like my Father!

God's children ought to seek to be *like Him*.

Temptation to look like everybody else—true from O.T. until today.

Especially in time of suffering, it's easier to try to blend into the wood work.

If no one knows we're different, maybe they'll leave us alone.

God wants His people to be different—to look like Him.

PETER'S MAIN MESSAGE:

GOD USES SUFFERING

TO PREPARE US FOR GREATER GLORY.

If we remain faithful to God and maintain a good testimony,

God is glorified and, in the end, we participate in His victory.

HOPE ENABLES US TO BE VICTORIOUS IN SUFFERING

1:3-2:10

What practical results should our hope produce in the midst of suffering?

PROPER ATTITUDES 1:13

Be ready for action 1:13a

Be sober 1:13b

Think soundly, on basis of firm foundation—God's Word

Fix our hope firmly on God's grace 1:13c

These attitudes deliver us from despair in times of affliction.

PROPER ACTIONS 1:14-2:10

Proper attitudes lead to proper actions.

Lifestyle ought to characterize those who have this hope in suffering.

Characteristics built on presupposition:

CHILDREN RESEMBLE THEIR PARENTS
IF WE'RE GOD'S CHILDREN,
WE'LL LOOK LIKE OUR FATHER.

Characteristics of God's children—children of light—stand in stark contrast to characteristics of children of darkness who don't belong to the Father:

HOW WE USED TO LIVE: (when *WE* walked in darkness)
WE USED TO LIVE CONTROLLED BY NATURAL HUMAN DESIRES

1:14 “As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.”

People without Christ act like humans! They can't help themselves.

That's the way we're born. We “do what comes naturally!”

BUT, that's not how God wants His children to act!

People who aren't God's children act like man's children; not like God's.

God wants His children to be different!

WE USED TO LIVE IN IGNORANCE 1:14b

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

People who aren't God's children don't know God.

They don't understand God's laws or His standards for His people.

Pagan gods are unknowable, disinterested in men, and self-centered.

They're gods made in the image of man—of sinful people.

View of their kingdom is lavish banquet, followed by an orgy.

That's not what the true God is like!

WE USED TO LIVE A LIFE OF FUTILITY 1:18 *"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from **the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers.**"*

Their way of life is empty, futile.

Like their forefathers, they're driven by things which can't satisfy.

"Like the woman at the well I was seeking, for things which could not satisfy."

Being God's children ought to produce a different kind of life:

In contrast to our old lifestyle, we ought to resemble our Father.

HOW WE OUGHT TO LIVE:

WE OUGHT TO BE HOLY 1:15-16 *"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."*

We gladly speak of God's holiness.

We sing "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty".

We have trouble talking about God's people as holy.

We're afraid of assuming a "holier-than-thou" attitude.

To be holy is to be dull, judgmental—to have the joy sucked out of us!

People don't really believe there IS such a thing anymore!

We ought to be like our father: "as obedient children."

Faithful children, growing up to fulfill our Father's expectations.

Like children, becoming what their parents want them to be.

They aren't suppose to grow up like the neighbor's kids.

They should become like *their* parents—"live up the to family tradition."

That's what God wants His kids to do: become conformed to His image.

We ARE God's children. He wants us to act like it.

This isn't a new idea; it's a well established principle!

Repeated in O.T. **Lev. 11:44-45** "*I am the Lord your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy.... I am the Lord Who brought you up out of Egypt to be your God; therefore be holy because I am holy.*"

Also, 19:2; 20:7-8; 20:26

New Testament tells us that "HOLY" is what we are. We're SAINTS!

We think of ourselves as sinners.

God calls us saints.

Neil Anderson: "If we think of ourselves as sinners, we'll do what sinners do! [Sin]; if we think of ourselves as saints, we'll do what saints do! [Live holy lives]" That's what God wants us to do— act like God's children.

We're to act like saints, because that is what we are!

HOLY—"to be separated, cut off" > "to be different, distinct"

To take something out of realm of the ordinary and move it to the sacred.

The temple isn't just another building; it's *set apart* to worship God.

Sabbath isn't just another day; it's a day *set apart* to worship God.

Priest isn't just another man; he's *set apart* to serve God. *Likewise, God's child isn't just another human being, he or she is a person set apart to bring honor and glory to God.*

We're to live a different kind of life.

We ought to live as children of the holy God.

We're to pattern our lives after our Father's image
 – to become more and more like our Father, who is holy.

WE OUGHT TO LIVE WITH APPROPRIATE REVERENCE 1:17-21

“Since you call on a Father who judges each man’s work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear.¹⁸ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers,¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.²⁰ He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.²¹ Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.”

If we call God Father, we should remember His character and not allow familiarity to become an excuse for evil.

Calling God Father so frequently could result in a presumptuous attitude.

Israel got used to having Him around and started playing with Him.

Peter warns against this attitude by reminding us of God’s character.

He’s a just and impartial judge. We’d better be careful how we act!

It’s easy to focus on persecutors, when we ought to focus on our Father. Rather than fear the persecutor, we should fear the just Judge.

Rather than focus on what’s temporal, we should focus on what’s eternal.

Reverence is attitude of a person who’s aware we live in God’s presence.

We continually come before God and call on Him as our Father.

He judges all people impartially.

As a loving Father who plays no favorites, He must be just with us.

Therefore, we'd better come before Him with appropriate reverence.

The fear of God ought to produce in us an appropriate lifestyle.

This reverent lifestyle should characterize our stay on earth

– Our stay here is just a **temporary foreign residence**.

A predominate theme of Peter's letter.

No matter how bad things get, this is just a *temporary residence*.

Our lifestyle should reflect our **permanent citizenship**.

We aren't citizens of this world, who settle down to stay.

We're foreigners, on a *temporary* visit as foreign residents living abroad.

Our conduct ought to reflect our reverence for our Father.

We tend to think fear of God is only appropriate in O.T. context of a harsh, judging God.

Reverential fear is the result of seeing God as He is.

When we acknowledge God's greatness, it affects the way we live.

We don't mess around with Him.

Wiersbe– "There is today an increase in carelessness, even flippancy, in the way we talk about or talk to God.... A worldly actress calls God "the Man upstairs." ... O.T. Jew so feared God that he wouldn't even pronounce His holy name, yet we today speak of God with carelessness and irreverence."

Appropriate reverence for our just and impartial Father, ought to produce a just and impartial lifestyle.

WHY? Why should we live this way?

Because he paid a high price to redeem us– the blood of the perfect lamb.

He didn't pay it with money.

It wasn't earned through our performance or good works

It wasn't the result of following the futile way of life of our ancestors.

Therefore, our hope isn't in us and our good works.

Our hope's in God and what He accomplished through Christ's death for us.

We live in appropriate fear and reverence for the Just and Impartial Judge because we know the price that our redemption cost Him.

WE OUGHT TO LOVE GOD'S FAMILY 1:22-25 *"Now that you've purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. ²³ For you've been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. ²⁴ For, "All men 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 stands forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.*

Because of a common bond produced by new birth, we demonstrate sincere, profound love for our brethren.

Such love isn't natural among men;

It's produced by God's enduring word.

God's Word has produced a new, imperishable seed in us.

That seed has sprung to life, like the life of God Himself.

1 His life is characterized by love.

+ 1 We share that seed, we're brothers and sisters.

= 2 Therefore, we ought to love one another,

Characteristics of this kind of love:

1. It's only obtained after we're purified

"Having been purified..."

It isn't natural

It's the result of God's Word, at work in our lives

2. **It's brotherly love**– "*philadelphia*"

It's based on a personal relationship with the other person.

We've become brothers and sisters in God's family.

Brothers/sisters defend each other—"You'd better not pick on MY sister!"

3. **It's sincere love**– not faked– "*without hypocrisy*"

This isn't just a public "show" of affection.– not acting out a part.

It isn't just an appearance when we're "face-to-face"

It's sincere and genuine

4. **It's persistent, continual love that never fails.**

– "deeply" or "intensely"

We're to love one another *tenaciously!*

Used in athletic contests for final effort, coming down home stretch, giving it all you've got. It combines hanging in there, with intensity.

5. **It's agape love.**

Based on a decision to love. Not based on merit

6. **It's reciprocal love**– "one another"– mutual.

It has to be returned– not as a condition but as a result.

7. **It is love from the heart**

Basis of that love: rebirth from imperishable seed

=> based on God's Word.

Again he emphasizes that this isn't *natural* love.

It only comes as a result of the work of God's Word in our life.

Because we've been born from incorruptible seed,

we live an incorruptible life– a life of love.

We love one another now, because new life we've received is eternal. We're going to live together for a long time!

We better decide to love one another now. Sooner or later we'll have to!

This kind of love is vital for believers suffering persecution by the enemy.

We must stand together and provide support for one another. **Gordon Maxwell**, missionary to **India**, asked a learned Hindu to teach him his language. Hindu refused, "I will not teach you my language. You would make me a Christian." Missionary assured him his motive was simply to learn his language. The man replied, "No, I will not teach you. *No man can live with you and not become a Christian.*"

PREREQUISITES TO BECOMING WHAT GOD WANTS US TO BE:

We become what God wants us to be through ...

the shed blood of Jesus. 1:18-19 *"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.*

This lifestyle is only ours as the result of the price Christ paid at the cross.

Our faith and our hope are in God—not ourselves.

We don't live in fear of God in order to earn salvation.

We receive salvation through faith in the shed blood of Christ;

We respond with appropriate reverence for the just and impartial God.

If you're here without Jesus Christ this morning, you'll never manage to achieve this kind of lifestyle by yourself.

We'll never be able to make ourself into a child of God.

That's based on the blood of Jesus Christ. 18-21

We become what God wants us to be through ...

... the transforming power of God's Word 1:23-25

“For you’ve been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.²⁴ For, “All men 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 stands forever.” And this is the word that was preached to you.

This lifestyle is the result of a rebirth, which comes through the living and abiding Word of God—the Bible—the Word of the Lord which stands forever.

It's not our idea, nor man's philosophies that do it.

It's not fanning a “spark of divinity” down inside us.

It's God's eternal Word that transforms our life—gives us new life in Christ.

**In short, we become what God wants us to be,
by being born into His family.**

We didn't become members of our earthly family by earning our way in.

You only become part of the family by birth, or by adoption.

That's how it is with GOD's family.

He has offered us new birth into His family,

by faith in the shed blood of Christ

and by the transforming power of His Word.

Is God YOUR Father? Do YOU belong to His family?

What should you do about that?

If you're not part of the family, you ought to trust Christ to join His family.

If we're part of the family, we ought to act like it.

“Like father, like son!”