

“It’s Time to Grow Up”

1 Peter 2:1-3

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I. Introduction

A. Peter Pan Syndrome

1. It’s the pop-psychology concept of an adult (usually male) who is socially immature.
2. According to the Urban Dictionary, the word “manolescent” describes a man of any age who shirks responsibilities.
3. There are a lot of Christians who are suffering from “Peter Pan Syndrome.”
 - a) They don’t want to grow up.
 - b) Peter (not Peter Pan), Peter the apostle, tells us, “it’s time to grow up” (v. 2)
 - c) “When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things” (1 Corinthians 13:11).
4. Are you growing as a child of God, or do you want to remain a spiritual adolescent?
 - a) Peter wants us to “grow up” so we can “stand in salvation” (1 Peter 5:12).
5. How do we grow out of spiritual adolescence to spiritual adulthood?
 - a) Peter gives us three steps to take

II. Lay Aside (1 Peter 2:1)

A. Peter opens up Chapter 2 with “wherefore.”

1. “Having been born again” (1 Peter 1:23)
 - a) Christians are born into God’s family
 - b) We grow up as God’s children
2. Peter tells us how (v.1) “laying aside.”
 - a) It’s a picture of taking off a garment
 - b) Some translations state, “get rid of.”
3. If we are to grow, there are things we need to “lay aside.”
 - a) “Laying aside” is a command
 - b) It needs to be done once and for all
 - c) These sins must not be condoned, excused. or covered. They must be “put off.”
4. “All malice” (v. 1)
 - a) It’s an all-inclusive word used for evil.

- 1) Translates “ill-will” or “spite.”
 - b) It’s the desire to get people back from hurting you.
 - 1) If you’re a Christian, you should lay it aside.
 - c) Malice towards others keeps us from growing.
5. “All guile” (v. 1)
 - a) It’s the sin of deceitfulness. Its crookedness in dealing with people
 - b) It disrupts fellowship
 - c) “Providing honorable things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men” (2 Corinthians 8:21).
 - d) If you’re going to grow, you must “put off” deceit.
6. “Hypocrisies” (v. 1)
 - a) It’s “pretense” or “play acting.” Pretending to be what you are not.
 - b) Be real and don’t put on a show.
7. “Envy” (v. 1)
 - a) Envy is a clear indication of spiritual infancy.
 - b) NLT- “jealousy”
 - c) Far too common in the church
 - d) It’s a malicious grudge toward others who have what you want.
 - e) “Now godliness with contentment is great gain” (1 Timothy 6:6).
 - f) “Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content” (Philippians 4:11).
8. “All evil speaking.”
 - a) Its slander
 - b) Literally “speaking against” or “talking down.”
 - c) It’s backbiting or getting down on others.
 - d) It’s a favorite Christian pastime.
 - e) Sadly, Christian parents do it in front of their children.
 - 1) “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers” (Ephesians 4:29).
9. These five common “sins of the saints” will keep you from growing.
 - a) In holiness (1 Peter 1:14-16)
 - b) In love (1 Peter 1:22)
 - c) Once and for all, “cast them off.”

III. We Must Feed on the Word (1 Peter 2:2)

* We move from what hinders us from growing to what helps us to grow, from what we must “lay aside” (sin), to what we must “receive” (Scripture).

A. Peter uses an analogy of a newborn baby.

1. What do newborns want? One thing- Milk.
2. NLT- “like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk.”
- B. We who are “born again” will have a hunger for God’s Word.
 1. It’s a sign that you are saved.
 2. “desire” (v. 2)
 - a) It’s a “craving” or an “intense yearning.”
 3. “sincere” or “pure” milk of the Word (v. 2)
 - a) God’s unadulterated Word
- C. Peter is commanding us to feed on God’s Word, the Bible.
 1. Why don’t more Christians feed on God’s Word?
 - a) Woodrow Kroll- *“Bible illiteracy is not a problem in the church. Bible illiteracy is the problem of the church.”*
 2. Reasons people give for not reading the Bible
 - a) “I don’t have time to read the Bible.”
 - b) “Reading the Bible isn’t a priority in my life.”
 - c) “The Bible is boring.”
 - d) “I can’t find what I want in the Bible.”
 3. We find God in the Bible.
 4. We don’t desire the Word because
 - a) We forget what it is.
 - 1) It’s the Word of God (1 Peter 1:23)
 - 2) It’s the Word of the Lord (1 Peter 1:25)
 - 3) It’s living (1 Peter 1:23)
 - 4) It’s eternal (1 Peter 1:23)
 - 5) It’s the enduring Word (1 Peter 1:25)
 - 6) “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16).
 - b) We forget what it can do.
 - 1) It brings us to salvation (1 Peter 1:23)
 - 2) It sanctifies us (John 17:17)
 - 3) It equips us for service (2 Timothy 3:17)
 - 4) We grow by it (1 Peter 2:2)

IV. Remember God is Good (1 Peter 2:3)

- A. Another reason we don’t desire God’s pure Word is that we have forgotten how good God is.
 1. “Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!” (Psalm 34:8).
 2. “If” is “since”

- a) “Since you have tasted the goodness of God.”
 - b) Since we find God in the Bible, why would you not want to feed on God’s Word?
3. We must “lay aside,” “feed on God’s Word,” and “remember God is good.”