

# 1 Peter 2

They say that every dog has its day, and, well, bible chapters are no exception as tonight, **1 Peter 2** takes the stand. We warmly invite you to gather round and join us in our dissection of this powerful wee chapter. You won't be disappointed...

So **1 Peter 2**! This chapter is full of advice from Peter on how to live our lives, telling us how we should behave, reminding us what Christ did for us and how we should follow his example.

**Chapter 2** begins with a call to get rid of all the evil in our lives that Jesus has set us free from such as malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy and slander. All of these things are incompatible with a Christ-like life. See also **Titus 2:12** and **James 1: 21**.

- It's all very well to read we must get rid of all sinful speech but a very different thing to put it into practice. As naturally sinful people, how can we do this?

**Verse 2** calls us to “crave pure spiritual milk” like a newborn baby. As soon as a baby is hungry, it seeks to tell its mother of its need and will cry for hours in order to get its milk.

- Shouldn't this be our attitude to our “spiritual milk”?

**Hebrews 5:12** tells us that the word of God is the spiritual milk that we require. Only once we can handle milk can we move on to “solid food” (**Hebrews 5:14**). See also **Matthew 4:4**.

We have to become helpless like a new born baby and fully submit ourselves to God for our needs.

- How often do we make ourselves totally dependent on God for our needs?
- Do we always submit *every* part of our lives to God, or are there areas where we don't want to let him in?
- What happens when our ‘quiet times’ with God start to lapse and we rely on ourselves rather than God?
- We are called to be *always* thirsty, not just when we hit hard times, but all of the time. How many of us can say that we are *always* thirsty for God's word?

A further analogy shows that as a baby longs for nothing but its mother's milk, we too should have this deep craving for the word and accept no other spiritual nourishment.

From **verse 4 to verse 8**, Peter uses an analogy of a building to illustrate that not only is God the source of our spiritual sustenance but is also our foundation. See also **Psalm 18:2**

Peter saw the church as a living temple to which God was adding with the conversion of each new believer. Each Christian is one of the essential stones that enable the whole

structure to fulfil its purpose. In addition every believer relates to every other like bricks or stones in a building. We must support one another and work together or the whole structure could collapse.

- How often do we truly do this out with our fellow believers?

Peter then gives us encouragement in **verse 9** describing us as a *chosen people*, chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God. This illustrates the need to evangelise. Check out **James 2:26** and **Matthew 28:19-20**

We are chosen for a purpose and need to act. This includes *all* of us, we have all been chosen and all have unique gifts we can use to do this. You don't need to be like Jimi Hendrix on guitar or make speeches like Martin Luther King to make a difference. God doesn't need mega stars or mega saints to serve him but willing volunteers who love Him and are passionate about His word. All we need is a willing heart and God will do the rest!

- Yet how many of us shy away from evangelism, feeling like we are inadequate, lacking the knowledge or the skills to do Him justice?

Our lives must reflect what we say. **Verse 12** also calls for us to make our whole lives a witness. See also **Matthew 5:14-16** and **Titus 2:7-8**.

In **verse 11** we are reminded that we are not citizens of the earth but citizens of heaven. Our home is in heaven and we are “aliens” in this world. See also **John 15:19** and **John 17:16** and **1 John 2: 15**.

Peter calls us to submit to the authorities of this world for the reason given in **verse 15**. It is important to read that in **verse 13** we are called to submit “*for the Lord's sake*” and so we must first be submitted to God before any other. It is interesting to note that almost every call to submit in the Bible comes with a wee phrase such as:

“In the Lord,”

“As is fitting in the Lord,”

“With...reverence for the Lord”

These wee phrases are important and remind us that God comes first, and our calling to love and obey Him is higher than any other.

Continuing this theme of submission, in **verse 18**, slaves are called to submit to their masters. In a recent sermon, Morganinho claimed that this also applies to any relationship where there is an imbalance of power, i.e. employees and their bosses; supermarket check-out operators and demanding customers; etc. So it *does* apply to you. See also **Ephesians 6:5-8** and **Titus 2:9-10**.

Read **verses 20-23** and consider what our attitude should be when we suffer for “doing good” in this world. We need to look to Christ as an example for how to live and accept suffering. Read also **James 1:2-4, 1:12 Romans 5:3-5, Matthew 5:10-12** and **John 15:18-19**. Surely we can rejoice in all suffering and persecution because it means the world has recognised us as being children of God!

**Chapter 2** concludes with a beautiful summary of what Christ did for us on the cross. A beautiful picture is painted in **verse 25** that is reminiscent of **Psalms 23**. God is our

shepherd, with Him we are loved, cared for and kept from harm; without him we are lost and prone to danger.



The end.

l'extrémité

das Ende

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