

I Peter: Living in a Loving Community

Chapter 1:23-25

Part Two

Introduction: Peter has given us three imperatives thus far: set you hope on God's grace; be holy yourselves in all your behavior; conduct yourselves in fear during your time of stay upon the earth. In verse 22 we come to the fourth imperative upon which Peter elaborates at length and uses some of the strongest terms available to him. We are to love one another.

I. The Unusual Particulars of Verse 23:

- A. It establishes causation for the love we (must) have for one another: FOR or BEING born again:
 - 1. We have been born anew into a family in which God is the Father.
 - 2. We are related to one another by the blood of Jesus and the virtue of this new birth.
 - 3. Because of this familial relationship to God and one another, we are to love each other.
- B. We are born of seed which is imperishable:
 - 1. It lasts not only this lifetime, but eternally. Our new birth is eternally permanent.
 - 2. Even though it is paid for by the blood of Jesus and is effected by the Holy Spirit, it arises from the LIVING and ABIDING Word of God:
 - How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed?*
 - How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? (Rom 10:14 NAU)*
 - 3. Peter quotes Isaiah 40 as support for his claim:
 - "Comfort, O comfort My people," says your God. "Speak kindly to Jerusalem; And call out to her, that her warfare has ended, That her iniquity has been removed, That she has received of the LORD'S hand Double for all her sins."*
 - ...A voice says, "Call out." Then he answered, "What shall I call out?"*
 - All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, When the breath of the LORD blows upon it; Surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever. (Isa 40:1-2 & 6-8 NAU)*
 - a. all flesh is like withering grass and wilting flowers
 - b. but because of God's promises, we will last eternally

II. It Is the Eternal Word that Has Brought Us Near to Salvation (vv.24-25)

- A. Even in the Old Testament the Word Preached is the Gospel (Good News):
 - 1. It brings forgiveness of sins.
 - 2. It gives hope in the promises of God.
 - 3. It provides assurance of restoration and eternal life.
- B. Our Eternal Salvation is as sure as God's Eternal Word:
 - 1. Faith in the truth of God's Word is essential for confidence in a New Birth.
 - 2. We must believe the Word preached, that it is absolutely true in all its claims.
 - 3. Hence we are born into this new family and we are expected to love on another
As those who have likewise been reborn. We are of the same seed.
- C. The blood of Christ and His resurrection, the convicting and life giving power of the Holy Spirit, and the truthfulness of God's promises are a seamless whole. They stand or fall together. We have been reborn through the Word of God as it has been proclaimed (preached) to us.

For Corporate Prayer:

- 1. *Teach us to forgive as You forgive by pointing out one person this week who needs my forgiveness.*
- 2. *Give us a desire for the LIVING Word of God—so that I will seek You Lord in the pages of Your Word. Do not let me rest until I have heard from You through Your Word once each day. (Write down what He says, where it is found in Scripture, and how God applied it to my heart.)*