

I Peter: Living in a Loving Community

Chapter 2:1-3

Part Three

Introduction: Peter has given us three imperatives thus far: set your 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. Loving One Another Ferently from the Heart is Positive; It Requires Putting Away Certain Negative Traits

- A. Malice—evil, trouble, wickedness—intentional meanness to fellow believers
- B. Deceit—a bait; crafty stealth and duplicity with the goal of misleading or defrauding
- C. Hypocrisy—to playact, behave insincerely—to act contrary to your beliefs and values
- D. Envy—jealousy—the desire to have what belongs to someone else whether position or materials
- E. Slander—to speak evil of another—in Biblical terms whether true or false

II. We Are to Exhibit the Characteristics of Newborn Infants in the Following Way

- A. We are to long for the pure (guileless, genuine) milk of the Word
- B. Note that we were saved through the proclamation of the Word (the good news), but we are by no means done with it
- C. We still need the "milk of the Word" so that we may grow in respect to salvation
- D. Although Peter does not carry the analogy further, the writer of Hebrews implies that we may grow up and move on to solid food (Hebrews 5:12)

III. Tasting the Kindness of the Lord

- A. Peter carries the analogy further suggesting that feeding on the milk of the Word causes us to taste God's kindness
- B. David writes: *O taste and see that the LORD is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him! (Psa 34:8 NAU)*

How sweet are Your words to my taste! Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth! (Psa 119:103 NAU)
- C. As we turn from carnal (fleshly) ways and yearn for the pure milk of the Word we come into intimate fellowship with the Lord and taste his lovingkindness

- Congregational Prayer:**
- 1) Father, remove from me all carnal speech and action so that I and others may clearly recognize a change.
 - 2) As I learn to love fervently from the heart, point out to me 3 people who need encouragement this week.