

NOW THAT YOU ARE SAVED

1 Peter 1:13-25

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The title of this sermon is “Now That You’re Saved.” How are Christians supposed to live? Depending on who you ask, you might get a lot of different answers to that question. But the best thing to do is to get our answers from the Bible. Today we’re going to study a passage of Scripture that tells us how to live as Christians.

Turn with me to 1 Peter 1:13-25. The bulk of 1 Peter 1:1-12 is about salvation. Verses 1-2 talk about how God has chosen (or elected) us for salvation according to His foreknowledge. Verses 3-5 talk about some of the blessings of salvation – regeneration, eternal life, eternal security. Verses 6-9 talk about how God uses trials to grow us so that we can get the most rewards when Christ returns to complete our salvation. Verses 10-12 talk about the fact that the Old Testament prophets looked forward to the day when God would send the Messiah to bring salvation. And then verses 13-25 talk about how to live on earth now that we are saved. How should Christians live now that God has given us a new heart, and forgiven our sins, and guaranteed a home for us in heaven? Just read 1 Peter 1:13-25 and you’ll find out.

7 Christian Behaviors

1. Be mentally prepared for action.

Let’s read **verse 13**. “13 Therefore, with your minds ready for action, be sober-minded and set your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

Notice the phrase, “with your minds ready for action.” The phrase “ready for action” literally means “gird up your loins.” What does that mean? Girdle is another word for belt, and loins is another word for robe. Back then men wore long robes. And if a man was about to fight, or run, or do some physical labor, he would pull up his loins, his robe, into his girdle, freeing up his legs to move quickly. To gird up your loins means to get ready for action. And this verse is saying “gird up the loins of your mind.” In other words, get your mind ready for action.

In other words, be mentally prepared for action. Get your mind ready for action at all times. Often athletes will listen to music before a big game. What are they doing? They are get their minds ready for action. They are getting mentally prepared for battle. That’s what we are called to do, all the time. We are called to always be mentally prepared for action.

What kind of action do you need to be mentally prepared for as a Christian? Titus 3:1 says we need to always be ready to do good deeds – always ready for opportunities to serve God and

others; in other words, always ready for ministry. 1 Peter 3:15 says that we need to always be ready to make an apologetic, or to give a reasoned response to those who ask us why we believe; to always be ready to defend the faith. Luke 12:40 says we need to always be ready for Jesus to come back. 1 Corinthians 10:12-13 says we need to be ready for temptation. 1 Peter 5:8 says we need to be ready for attacks from the devil – these might come in the form of persecution, or temptation. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 says we need to always be praying. Acts 20:31 says we need to always be on guard against false teachers.

The Christian life is a war. And we need to always be mentally prepared for offense and for defense. On offense we're serving God and others and trying bring people to Jesus. And on defense we're fighting against temptation, and persecution, and false teaching. We need to always be ready for opportunities and attacks. Opportunities to serve God; and attacks from the devil.

How do you prepare your mind for spiritual action? You need to study and learn the Bible. **2 Timothy 3:16-17** says, "16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness by the devil, He overcame the devil by quoting Scripture.

I recommend that every Christian have a daily quiet time – a daily time when you are alone with God in prayer, and in Bible study. And I recommend that you read through one of the Bible reading lists that we offer on our church website. Study the Bible. Stay in the Bible. Keep your mind on the Bible. That way you will always be mentally prepared for action.

But there's another way be mentally prepared for action, and that brings us to the second Christian behavior.

2. Be sober-minded.

Go back to **verse 13**. "13 Therefore, with your minds ready for action, be sober-minded and set your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

What does it mean to be sober-minded? It means to avoid drunkenness and drug use. Now when I say drugs, I'm not talking about medicine; I'm talking about drugs that alter your mental state so that you are not fully in control, and God is not fully in control.

The Bible is clear that getting drunk (or taking drugs recreationally) is against God's will. **Ephesians 5:18** says, "And don't get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless living, but be filled by the Spirit."

Again, the first Christian behavior is to be mentally prepared for action. But you can't be mentally prepared for action if you are drunk or high on drugs. If you're drunk then you aren't ready to serve God and others; you're not ready to defend your faith, or to give a reasoned response to those who ask; you're not ready for Christ to come back; you're not ready for temptation (in fact, you're extra vulnerable); you're not ready for Satanic attacks; you're not ready for prayer; you're not ready to stand against false teachers. When you're drunk you're just not ready for action; you're useless. And so this is a prohibition against drunkenness and drug use. Christians must be sober-minded so that we are mentally prepared for action.

Is it a sin to drink alcohol? No. But it is a sin to drink under the legal age, and so you must wait until you turn 21. It is a sin to drink and drive. And aside from that, many Christians, including me, have just made the decision not to drink at all to avoid the risk of getting drunk and even addicted.

3. Focus on heaven, not life on earth.

Look again at **verse 13**. "Therefore, with your minds ready for action, be sober-minded and set your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

What is "the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ"? The revelation of Jesus Christ is a common reference to his return, or the second coming. And when Jesus comes back, He will complete our salvation by giving us our new, glorified bodies, and by giving us our eternal rewards that we have built up by serving Him on earth, and then we will get to live with God in the new heaven and earth for eternity.

So to set your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ means to focus on heaven, not on earth. In other words, live for eternity, not for this life.

Unbelievers act like this life is all there is. They live for fame, fortune, and fun. Because they think that when you die, you just become food for worms and it's all over. The unbeliever's motto is YOLO – You Only Live Once!

But as Christians, we know that this life is not all there is. We know that eternity is coming, and that we will spend eternity with Jesus. And therefore God wants us to live for eternity, not this life; for heaven, not earth. The Christian's motto is not YOLO, but You Only Live Forever.

In other words, rather than live for fame, fortune, and fun, we need to focus on making sure that we are going to heaven when we die; we need to focus on bringing as many people to heaven with us; and we need to work on storing up as many heavenly treasures and rewards as we can by serving and God others in Jesus' name.

Jesus told us to do this in **Matthew 6:19-20 (CSB)**. “19 Don’t store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don’t break in and steal.”

The apostle Paul put it a different way in **Colossians 3:1-2 (CSB)**. “So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”

Author Randy Alcorn puts it like this. Live for the line, not the dot. Life on earth is only a small dot in time compared to the eternity we will spend in heaven. So don’t live for the dot. We’ll only be here a short while. Instead, live for the line; live for eternity; make sure you’re going to heaven, and make sure you are storing up as many rewards and treasures for yourself as you can!

4. Be obedient children.

Let’s move on to **1 Peter 1:14**. “As obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires of your former ignorance.”

Why does Peter call us children? Because when you get saved, one of the blessings is that God adopts you into His family and you become a child of God. **Romans 8:15** says, “You did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear. Instead, you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father!’ When Jesus taught His disciples how to pray He said to start out like this, “Our Father in heaven, your name be honored as holy.” When you get saved you become a child of God. All people are God’s creatures, and God loves all people, but only Christian’s are God’s children.

But Peter doesn’t just call us children. He calls us obedient children. Once you get saved you are called to be obedient to God.

What does it mean to be obedient? It means **to carry out God’s commands immediately with a good attitude**.

In **Luke 6:46 (CSB 2017)** Jesus said, “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and don’t do the things I say?” In other words, the title “Lord” means master, or boss. So if you claim that Jesus is your Savior and Lord, then you need to do what He says.

In **John 14:15 (CSB)** Jesus said, “If you love me, you will keep my commands.” If you claim to love Jesus, to love God, then obey Him. That’s what love for God does.

James 1:22 says, “But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” God doesn’t just want you to study the Bible to become smarter; He wants you to obey it. And if you don’t, then you are deceiving yourself if you call yourself a Christian. Because Christianity means obedience.

I taught my children a lesson in obedience recently. I noticed that when the phone rings, they stop what they are doing, jump up, and sprint to see who is calling on the Caller ID. Yet often when I would give them a command they wouldn't budge; or they would move in slow motion. So I pointed out their behavior when the phone rings, and I told them that that's exactly the way they should respond to a command from their parents: Stop what you are doing, jump up, and sprint to carry out the command. And don't forget to do it with a good attitude! That's a good picture of what our obedience to God should look like. His word is our command. When we come across a command in the Bible, we must obey right away with a good attitude.

The Christian life is simply reading your Bible and doing what it says.

Let’s look at **verse 14** again. “As obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires of your former ignorance.”

Sin is pleasurable for moment. Drugs and alcohol, sexual immorality, pornography, gluttony, revenge, gossip, rage, violence, laziness, the praise of men. These things feel good to the flesh. Physically, emotionally, sin feels good in the moment; in the short term. And when we were unbelievers, we conformed our lives to these desires. In other words, we obeyed these desires. If it felt good, then we did it, and we didn’t care about honoring and obeying God.

Why did we live that way? Because we were ignorant. We didn’t know God.

But now that we are Christians, now that we know God personally, and we know His truth, and we know His love, and we know His plan for our lives, and we know where we are headed when we die, then we are not to live that way. We are to be obedient. We do not conform to our sinful desires. We conform to God’s will. We don’t obey our desires to feel good. We obey our desire to please God.

But I want you to notice that it says do not be conformed to the desires of your former ignorance. Even though you are a Christian, you will still be tempted to conform to your sinful desires rather than God’s will. You will be tempted to settle for instant gratification rather than the long-term rewards of an obedient life. Because even though are a Christian sin still feels good in the moment. And that’s why this command is here. Be obedient to God. Do not obey those old sinful desires.

5. Be holy.

Let's move on to **verses 15-16**. "15 But as the one who called you is holy, you also are to be holy in all your conduct; 16 for it is written, Be holy, because I am holy."

The next Christian behavior is to be holy. This verse teaches five truths about holiness.

First, holiness means morally blameless. It means moral purity. The Bible commands us to be morally blameless. Another way to put it is sinlessness.

Second, holiness is not optional. This is a command. Holiness is for every Christian. If you call yourself a Christian, then you should strive for holiness. You should strive to avoid sins of commission – doing what you should not do; and sins of omission – neglecting to do what you should do.

Third, the call to holiness is all-encompassing. Not that **verse 15** says "be holy in all your conduct." In other words, we are to pursue moral blamelessness in every arena of our lives – our sexuality, our thoughts, our private lives, our physical fitness, our speech, our finances, etc.

Fourth, we are to imitate God's holiness. Notice that **verse 15** says, "As the one who called you is holy, you also are to be holy." We are not to settle for the holiness of the Christians around us; we are to strive for God's holiness. Our standard of holiness is God, not other people at church, not the pastor, etc.

Fifth, we are to be holy in order to glorify God. Notice that verse 16 says, "be holy, because I am holy." We are called to glorify God, which means acting like Him so the world can see how great He is. That's why we are called to holiness. God is holy, and so if we are going to glorify Him, or show the world what He is like, then we need to be holy.

The Greek word for holy is *hagios*. It literally means set apart, or different. **William Barclay** writes, "The temple is *hagios* because it is different from other buildings; the Sabbath is *hagios* because it is different from other days; the Christian is *hagios* because he is different from other men." The call to holiness is the call to be different. As Christians, our goal is not to be different. But our goal is to be holy, and that means that we are willing to live and look very different than the world around us. And the more holy you are, the more different you will be from the world around you. If you look, and act, and talk, and live, and spend your time and money just like unbelievers, then something's wrong.

6. Be reverent.

Let's look at **verse 17-21**. "17 If you appeal to the Father who judges impartially according to each one's work, you are to conduct yourselves in reverence during your time living as

strangers. 18 For you know that you were redeemed from your empty way of life inherited from your fathers, not with perishable things like silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of an unblemished and spotless lamb. 20 He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was revealed in these last times for you. 21 Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God."

This is five verses, but there's only one command, and it's tucked in **verse 17**. "Conduct yourselves in reverence."

What is reverence? The dictionary defines reverence as "deep respect." The idea is to live with deep respect for God. This is what the Bible means by the "fear of the Lord." The Bible often commands us to fear the Lord. **Deuteronomy 10:12 (CSB)** says, "And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you except to fear the Lord your God by walking in all his ways, to love him, and to worship the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul?" To fear the Lord means to have a mixture of deep respect, awe, and fear. Deep respect because He is God, and because He is a good and righteous God. Awe because God is almighty, creator, sovereign, all-knowing, all-seeing, all-present. And fear because God hates sin, and because He will not hesitate to discipline His children when they need it, and at the final judgment He will pour out His wrath of eternal hell on unbelievers.

So when verse 17 says to conduct ourselves in reverence, it is saying that we need to live our lives with judgment in mind. Every moment, recognize that God is watching, and that you will stand before the throne of Jesus Christ one day to be judged according to your works. The judge is watching everything you do, and one day you will have to face Him. Live your life in deep respect of the judge.

Matthew 10:28 (CSB) says, "Don't fear those who kill the body but are not able to kill the soul; rather, fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

7. Love your church family.

Let's read **1 Peter 1:22-25**.

22 Since you have purified yourselves by your obedience to the truth, so that you show sincere brotherly love for each other, from a pure heart love one another constantly, 23 because you have been born again—not of perishable seed but of imperishable—through the living and enduring word of God. 24 For

All flesh is like grass,
and all its glory like a flower of the grass.

The grass withers, and the flower falls,
25 but the word of the Lord endures forever.
And this word is the gospel that was proclaimed to you.

I want to focus in on the last command given here in this chapter. It's found at the end of **verse 22**. "Love one another constantly." Who are we supposed to love? Well, we know from Jesus' teachings that we are supposed to love everyone, even our enemies and those who persecute us. But in this particular context, the focus is on loving your church family. Peter is saying in verse 22, "You have been treating each other like family in the church (that's what he means by brotherly love, or *philadelphia*), and that's good, but I want you to go every further and love one another to the max. The word "completely" means "to stretch the limits" of love for one another.

Many Christians in our day are not connected to the church. But that's unbiblical. Not only are Christians called to be connected to the church, and to participate in the church, but we are called to love our church family. That means constantly look for ways to sacrificially meet the needs of your fellow church members, even though they are imperfect.

Why? Because God's plan is to use the church to care for His people. It is as we are connected to the church and loving each other that God cares for us.

As well, when the church truly loves one another, it's attractive to outsiders. It makes people on the outside want in. And that's the mission of the church – to reach the lost.

It's interesting that one of the best ways we can reach out is by reaching in to love each other completely.

CONCLUSION

So now that you're saved, this is how you're supposed to live. Be mentally prepared for action. Be sober-minded. Focus on heaven, not life on earth. Be obedient. Be holy. Be reverent. And love your church family. If even a small church like ours would get serious about living like this, surely we could change the world.