


TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS



A publication of , the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. —Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. —Joshua 22:5

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

2019.7.21



- The message of **the whole book** of 1 Peter can be stated as:

*God Almighty solved the problem of His sinful, rebellious creation by choosing to draw us to himself, sending his Son and Spirit to save us, and endowing us with new affections and abilities, **so that** we will glorify him, enjoy him, and (by lovingly blessing those who hate God and us) will be agents of reconciliation, **so that** more rebels (such as us) would be drawn into God's kingdom.*

Review the Sermon Summary, connecting elements of the sermon to the message of the whole book.

- Review the five biblical truths regarding **how** we are to obey (see the **blue** text in Sermon Summary). Which of those most surprised you? ...made sense to you? ...confused you? ...encouraged you? —and **why**?
Which principle do you think **most** consistently governs **your** obedience? ...**least** consistently?
What does that suggest regarding your **view** of God? ... of people? ...of religion? ...of righteousness?
- Review the six categories of **what** Peter says we are to do (see the **red** text in Sermon Summary).
Comparing these six commands, which **one** do you think you obey **most** consistently? Give an example.
Which **one** do you think you obey **least** consistently? **Why** do you think that is?
- If we as a church body were to begin obeying these six **commands** more consistently **and** were more biblical regarding **how** we obey, what changes do you think we would begin seeing at TCC?

Be **specific** and **concrete**!

Application-Challenge

From the **Sermon Summary**, review the five biblical truths about **how** we are to obey (see **A-E**). Then, choose the **one** command which you think you **most** need to apply (see **1-6**). Tell a friend **which** command you chose—and **why**. Ask them to pray for you to take godly action this week.

Sermon Summary

Ten weeks ago we began a series on First Peter. We're taking a breather from in-depth, verse-by-verse study and doing a bit of review. We're zooming out, pulling together the many threads we've encountered, reminding ourselves of the "big ideas" that holds this powerful little letter together. First Peter is about "resources and responses for joy and fruitfulness while suffering", and we're calling this two-part review: "What's True" (and therefore) "What to Do". The Christian life involves obedience, but God-given resources always precede and enable our responses. Last week we studied our God-given resources for obedience: God saves us by graciously choosing a people for himself, giving Christ to die in our place, and then sending his Spirit to cause us to be born again. God changes us by giving us love for Christ and faith and hope in him, freedom to love and serve others without fear and self-protection, and giving us perspective and power to suffer with confidence and contentment. God promises that he will keep us and care for us in this life, bless us in our righteous suffering, and will complete our holiness and salvation in the next life.

Today we turn to our obedient responses, but we must not simply focus on mere externals, because God cares about the heart (1:22), and that we obey "for the Lord's sake" (2:13). This is what Jesus did—and God commands us to do (2:21-24). Here are five biblical truths about **how** we are to obey:

[A] God's provision always precedes his commands, so we know we have adequate resources, both to obey and even to want to obey (Philippians 2:13). Ask God to help you obey and trust that he will.

[B] Obedience must not be merely external—that's hypocrisy. We obey "from the heart".

[C] Obedience precedes and unleashes God's power (Luke 5:1-11).

[D] Obedience doesn't earn us God's approval and generosity. That's all by grace.

[E] Disobedience does not disqualify us for grace. It does impoverish our experience as Christians and dishonor God, but if you're a born-again child of God, then the very righteousness of Christ has already been credited to your account.

Now that we know how to obey, **what** does Peter tell us to do:

[1] Live in submission to God ("...fear God...", 2:17). Many people say, "We should love God, not fear him!" We are commanded both to love God (Matthew 22:37) and to fear him. This involves "...setting apart Christ as Lord in our hearts..." (3:15). "Lord" means "master", so we don't treat his teachings like a "second opinion". In addition, we are to...

[2] Live in light of eternity—"...fixing our hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at Christ's return..." (1:13). Biblical hope is a confident assurance of something God has promised, but hasn't yet given to us. Our expectation of good is to be "completely" fixed on eternity. Many good things no doubt will come our way during this life—but we're not to fix our hope on them. "The Lord gives, the Lord takes away—blessed be the name of the Lord."

[3] Develop our interior lives. Peter says "Don't be concerned with your outward appearance..." (3:3). Our physical bodies, along with the rest of creation, are cursed (2 Corinthians 4:16-18). We age, decay, and eventually we die. I hear so many Christians talking about their latest diet and work-out plan, but I rarely hear this conversation: "I'm concerned about my Bible intake. I want to make sure I'm getting a balanced diet of God's word. I've got to fix that." The Bible puts the emphasis on spiritual discipline (1 Timothy 4:7-8). We do this by "craving the pure spiritual milk of God's Word" (2:2).

[4] Make an absolute commitment to holy living. "...be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy" (1:15). "Keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies. Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace, and work to maintain it." (3:10-11).

[5] Love fellow believers. (1:22 & 2:17). "...show sincere love to your brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart."

[6] Honor all people, especially those in authority. To "honor" means to "determine the value of something". What is the value of a human being? We're made in the image of God. Christ died for us. So we honor everyone—rich or poor, pretty or plain, born or unborn. We have a special responsibility to submit to all human authority. Jesus modeled perfect submission, and tells us to now to do the same.

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

"Five Question Bible Study" (see page below) is a simple way to study any passage. Let's use it to learn more about obedience from one of the greatest acts of disobedience!

Monday— 1 Samuel 15:1-9

Tuesday— 1 Samuel 15:10-19

Wednesday— 1 Samuel 15:20-23

Thursday— 1 Samuel 15:24-35

Friday— Psalms 40:6–8 and 51:16–17; Isaiah 1:11–15; Hosea 6:6

Saturday— ***In preparation for worshipping your risen Lord tomorrow with your church family,*** study 1 Peter 3:18-22.

Need blank copies for doing more

"Five Question Bible Study"?

e-mail: Dan.Clement.TCC@gmail.com

Bible Text: _____

Date: _____



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) is it found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text?