


"Have It Your Way"
Christianity

TALKING POINTS WALKING POINTS

Leaders' Guide

2021.10.10



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 or Discussion

- 1 As Pastor Doug says, "Whenever a passage says 'therefore'—we need to ask what it's there for." 1 Peter 1:13 begins: "Therefore..." and follows a passage (v. 3-12) which enumerates many proofs of the certainty of our inheritance in heaven. List as many as you can find.
- 2 1 Peter 1:13 then commands three actions. What are they?
How do these three actions flow logically from the certainty of our salvation and inheritance?
- 3 How does 1 Peter 1:14 describe our former mode of life?
Of what were we "ignorant" before we were saved? Did you think of yourself as "ignorant" back then?
- 4 In what area of behavior have you seen the most growth in holiness (v. 15)? The least?
- 5 How does 1 Peter 1:18 describe your way of life before you were saved?
What were some examples of the "futility" of your former mode of life?
- 6 Peter says that we inherited a futile way of life from "our forefathers". Dictionary.com defines "futile" as "incapable of producing any successful result". **How** does that describe **your** former life?
- 7 What sort of life do we inherit from our **new** Father (v. 17)?
- 8 **Why** should we "conduct ourselves with **fear** during our stay on earth" (v. 17)? (See 2 Corinthians 5:10-11a.)
- 9 What constructive role does fear play in **your** Christian life?
- 10 Salvation "purified" us so that we are able to practice "sincere love". What is the alternative to "sincere"?
- 11 What were some of the hypocritical ways you formerly "loved" others during the time you lived the futile lifestyle inherited from our culture? Have you repented of those hypocritical displays of love?
- 12 If we **already have been** purified for sincere love, **why** do you think **we still need to be commanded** to "fervently love one another"? What is the relationship between God's enablement and our performance?
- 13 Who do you most need to "**fervently love from the heart**"? Will you?

- 1 Our future inheritance is absolutely certain (v. 3-12), and the appropriate response to it follows in v. 13.
- Our inheritance is preserved by the power of God (v. 3–5)
 - The quality of our faith is proven as we endure trials and persecution (v. 6–9)
 - The preciousness of our inheritance is revealed by the anticipation of prophets and angels (v. 10–12)

- 2
- prepare your mind for action
 - keep sober in spirit
 - fix your hope completely on future grace

Because our inheritance is certain and glorious, no obstacles or suffering in this life (eg. 4:12-19) ought to distract or discourage us.

- 3 We were “ignorant”—ignorant that we were slaves of Satan (2 Timothy 2:26), that we were spiritually dead (Ephesians 2:1-3), that we are not “basically good people” (Romans 3:10-18), that we were one heartbeat away from the eternal wrath of God (John 3:36) and could not save ourselves (Psalm 49:7).

Open up for sharing on the question, “Did you think of yourself as “ignorant” back then?”

- 4 Key areas to explore include: speech, thought life, values, self-centeredness/others-centeredness, life goals, relationships, morality, honesty, anger/forgiveness, pride/humility, drunkenness, boasting...

- 5 “futile”—which means “incapable of producing any successful result”.

You likely will need to “prime the pump”, so be prepared with your own answer to this question. (But wait for others to think and answer. Check your watch—20 seconds feels like an eternity!)

- 6 This is a follow-up to 5. The goal of this question is to honestly explore the bankruptcy of our life without Christ. Ephesians 2:12 describes it this way: *“You were excluded from citizenship among the people of God, you did not know the promises God had made to his people. You lived in this world without God and without hope.”*

- 7 Believers are now transferred out of our old family (Colossians 1:13-14) and adopted by God the Father (Ephesians 1:5). Our new Father is **perfectly holy** (1 Peter 1:15-16). We are to become like him.

- 8 Because God judges believers (1 Peter 1:17 & 4:17; 2 Corinthians 5:10-11a; Revelation 2-3).

- 9 There’s a lot of ignorance regarding “the fear of the Lord”. Many people—including Christians—say “I don’t think we should fear God—I think we should love him.” Yet both fear and love are commanded. You likely will need to “prime the pump”, so be prepared with your own answer to this question.

- 10 counterfeit, deceitful, dishonest, false, untrustworthy/tricky...hypocritical!

- 11 We flattered people to get what we want; we lied to parents/spouse to cover for our misdeeds; we sought our own advantage while claiming to have others’ interest in mind...

The question, “Have you repented of those hypocritical displays of love?” likely will require you to go first.

- 12 Before we were born again, we were **incapable** of loving others sincerely (Romans 6:6, 17 & 20). Now we **can**—but we must choose to obey. The truth of this is revealed by all of the commands in Scripture. Love would not be commanded of believers if it were automatic.

- 13 Caution—it’s probably best not to name names on this one!

You likely will need to “prime the pump”, so be prepared with your own answer to this question.

This is a difficult question, but by all means, **don’t** skip it! We are commanded to be “doers of the Word”.

Sermon Outline (Key Text: 1 Peter 1:13-25)

We must look forward in **hope** to Jesus' return.

¹³ Prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit,
fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

We must live a life marked by **holiness**.

¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance,
¹⁵ but alike the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior;
¹⁶ because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

We must learn in **humility** from our Heavenly Father.

¹⁷ If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work,
conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth;
¹⁸ knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold
from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,
¹⁹ but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.
²⁰ For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world,
but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you
²¹ who through Him are believers in God,
who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory,
so that your faith and hope are in God.

We must love one another with **honor**.

²² Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren,
fervently love one another from the heart,
²³ for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable,
that is, through the living and enduring word of God.
²⁴ For, "ALL FLESH IS LIKE GRASS, AND ALL ITS GLORY LIKE THE FLOWER OF GRASS.
THE GRASS WITHERS, AND THE FLOWER FALLS OFF,
²⁵ BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER."
And this is the word which was preached to you.

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

"Five Question Bible Study" (see page below) *is a simple way to study any passage. We can use it to learn how to live-out a God-centered faith...*

Monday—Read Colossians 3:1-4. List all the things that are "above" and those that are "on earth".

Tuesday—Read Colossians 3:5-7. List all the things you are to consider yourself dead to.

Wednesday—Read Colossians 3:8-10. What are you to "take off"? What have you "put on"?

Thursday—Read Colossians 3:10-11. What—or who—replaces your old ethnic identity?

Friday—Read Colossians 3:12-17. Which one trait do you most need to "put on"? Put it on!

Saturday—***In preparation for worshipping the risen Lord with your church family,***
read **Daniel chapters 1-3 & 6.**

Bible Text: _____

Date: _____



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

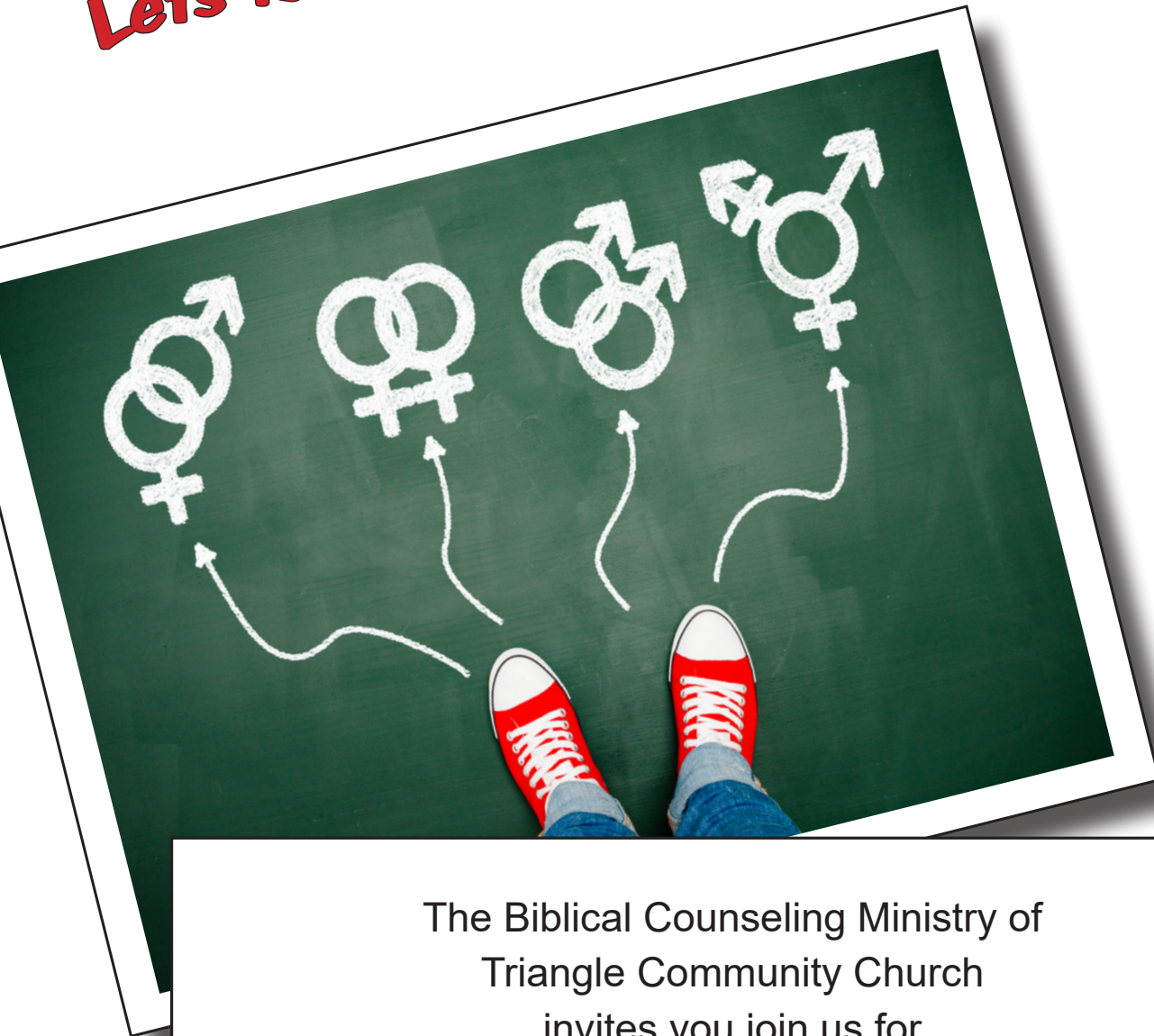


What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text? [and what was their response?]

Lets love our gender-confused friends!



The Biblical Counseling Ministry of
Triangle Community Church
invites you join us for

“Biblical Perspectives on Gender Identity”

Saturday, November 6, 2021

9am til noon



Our seminar speaker, **Dr. Jim Newheiser**, is the director of the Christian Counseling program at Reformed Theological Seminary in Charlotte and serves as a board member of both the Biblical Counseling Coalition and the Association of Certified Biblical Counselors.

For more info, write to: **BiblicalHopeAndHelp@gmail.com**