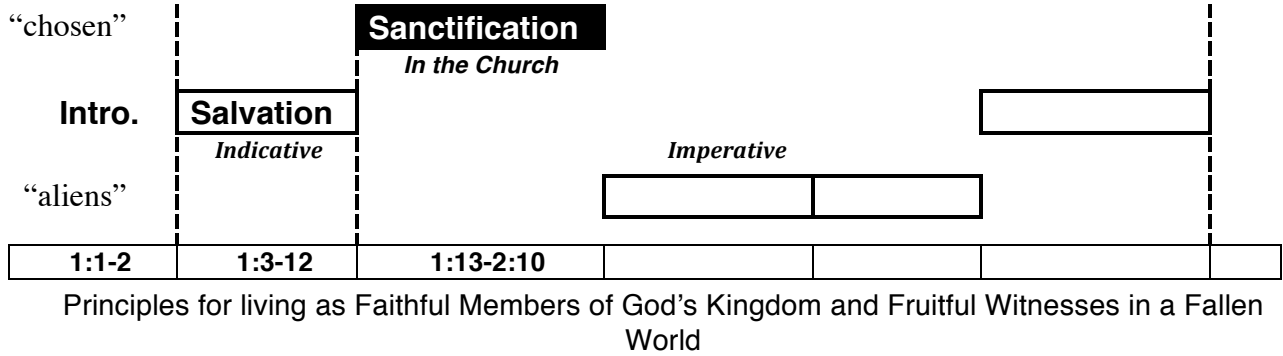


I Peter

The challenge of dual citizenship

I Peter 1:22-2:10



Salvation (hopeful expectation) 1:3-12
 Principle #1 **We are called to receive a blessing**

Sanctification (holy experience) 1:13-2:10
 Principle #2 **We are called to be a blessing**
 by pulling away from our old family - the world.
 by drawing near to our new family – the church.

The challenges of our new family

1) Love one another

Our calling

²² Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere **love** (phileo) of the brethren,

Our challenge

fervently **love** (agape) one another from the heart,

Matt.25:40 “Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.” **Matt.24:37,39** “You shall love the Lord your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

- L istening to their concerns
- O verlooking their weaknesses
- V aluing their strengths
- E mpathizing with their pain.

2) Long for the Word

Our calling

Natural birth

not of seed which is perishable

²⁴ For, "All flesh is like grass, And all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, And the flower falls off"

²³ for you have been born again

Spiritual birth

but imperishable, {that is,} through the living and abiding word of God.

²⁵ But the word of the Lord abides forever." And this is the word which was preached to you.

Fact about the new birth.

- It is the first step to a new life in Christ.
- It is a birth that does not lead to death.
- It is a birth that comes as the result of hearing the gospel and believing in Jesus as one's personal savior.
- It is the work of the same God who's word called into existence this world from a formless and empty mass.

Our challenge

Putting aside

¹ Therefore, **putting aside** all malice and all guile and hypocrisy and envy and all slander,

Spiritual terrorism

Longing for

² like newborn babes, **long for** the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, ³ if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

The Word

What are we tempted to do when we are hurting?
If we are to receive the Word, what kinds of sin are we to put aside and why?

Topical preaching

Topic driven

Program support

Short term treatment

Expository teaching

Text driven

Life support

Long term investment

3) Minister as priests

Our calling	Our challenge
<p style="text-align: center;">Coming to Christ, the living stone</p> <p>⁴ And coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of God,</p> <p>⁶ For {this} is contained in Scripture: "<i>Behold I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner {stone},</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">who has caused others to stumble</p> <p>But for those who disbelieve, "<i>The stone which the builders rejected, This became the very corner {stone,}</i>" ⁸ and, "<i>A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense</i>"; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this {doom} they were also appointed.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The priesthood ministry</p> <p>⁵ you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.</p> <p><i>And he who believes in Him shall not be disappointed.</i>" ⁷ This precious value, then, is for you who believe.</p>

Jesus should be the center of attention as "the corner stone."

Jesus' often competes with:

- **The church** (tradition, distinctives, people, programs, etc.)
- **Ethics** (justice, morality, peace, etc.)
- **A generic God** (he, she, it, self, ? # *)

4) Tell the story

Our calling	Our challenge
<p style="text-align: center;">Past identity</p> <p>¹⁰ for you once were not a people, but now you are <i>the people of God;</i> you <i>had not received mercy,</i> but now you have <i>received mercy.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Present identity</p> <p>⁹ But you are <i>a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for {God's} own possession,</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: teal;">that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;</p>

How does a church tell the story of God's grace through Christ?
What are the signs of a healthy church based on these verses?

Love one another
Long for the Word

Minister as Priests
Tell the Story