



Love and Longing | 1 Peter 1:22-2:3

The most significant suffering in life is relational. "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words *stay with me forever*." That might be a better rendition of the statement we all learned as kids. The reason that our worst suffering is relational is because we are created for relationship. This is why Peter moves into explaining "holiness" in terms of relational redemption ...

How have you seen the power (positive or negative) of relationship in your life?

READ/REFLECT

1 Peter 1:22-2:3 ... read through these verses.

Look at the previous context (what we studied last week, vv. 13-21). How does this passage build upon what we studied last week about holiness?

In verses 22-23a, Peter gives the reason that we have been "born again." What is that reason?

He qualifies and describes love with a lot of adjectives/adverbs. List all the descriptions and discuss why they are necessary.

What does verses 23b-25 teach us? How does this truth motivate us to intense, honest love?

The "vices" listed in 2:1 are intense. Peter suggests that we take them off like clothing. How do we often use those behaviors/attitudes as clothing?

How would taking off "protective" clothing like that leave us vulnerable?

The "spiritual milk" (2:2) is a reference to what sustains us in the Christian life (i.e., God's grace and mercy). How does taking off the clothing of verse 1 spur a thirst for God's grace?

Read the surrounding context of Psalm 34:8 (the OT reference for 2:3). How does that help you understand Peter's point about God's goodness?

RESPOND

What kind of demands do you tend to put on relationships? How will it feel to begin to let them go?

What are tangible ways that you can begin to seek refuge in Jesus rather than old protective strategies?

REACH OUT in prayer

Ask each person in the group to share how others can pray for them to apply these truths to their lives.