

**Re-born to Love**  
**1 Peter 1:22-2:3**

**1 Peter 1:22–2:3 (NLT)** — **22** You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart. **23** For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God. **24** As the Scriptures say, “People are like grass; their beauty is like a flower in the field. The grass withers and the flower fades. **25** But the word of the Lord remains forever.” And that word is the Good News that was preached to you. **1** So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech. **2** Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, **3** now that you have had a taste of the Lord’s kindness.

**Intro:**

Up to vs 22 in chapter 1, Peter had pointed out the fact that as believers, we have a living hope. The promise of salvation. What Peter refers to this salvation as an inheritance which will be both incorruptible and undefiled waiting for us in heaven.

But Peter also reminded us that as sojourners looking forward to heaven, **there is a call to live our Christian lives in holiness.**

**This call to holiness is out of our salvation, not for our salvation.** It is a call to be holy in response to what God has done for us. We are to conduct ourselves in reverent fear towards God in obedience, acknowledging that we have been redeemed at a cost that we could never earn or afford on our own. The price was the blood of Jesus Christ. His life for ours.

**I. Obedience to the Spirit in love**

So, Peter began verse 22 with: **You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth**

Peter is not suggesting that we have any ability in **purifying our own** souls. How can what is putrid do the purifying?

The Bible is very clear that outside of the purifying work of Jesus Christ, accomplished on the cross, we are and will remain soiled in our sin. -

It is the Holy Spirit who purifies us not only from the filth of sin itself **but from also the power** of sin. So **that we can live a life of obedience.**

**1 Peter 1:14–16 (NKJV) — 14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; 15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”**

## II. Loving in sincere love

**Now you may be wondering, just what does a holy and obedient life look like?** You might even be wondering, which commandments do I have to live up to, or follow, that would qualify as living an obedient life?

There was a lawyer that approached Jesus one day who had this question in mind.

**Matthew 22:36–40 (NKJV) —36 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” 37 Jesus said to him, “ ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”**

The answer is that obedience and holiness **manifests itself as love.**

*(22a- You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth).....*

**22b. so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart.**

### Obedience = Love

**Vs 22** speaks of both a brotherly love (phileo) and a Godlike sacrificial love (agape). We are called as believers to love and care for each other with a brotherly type of love. But we are also called to love with a sacrificial love. A supernatural love.

Now we might be able to pull off loving someone with a phileo or brotherly love. But to love sacrificially is beyond our selfish ability. This is a love that can only come from God.

I am not saying that only God Himself can love with agape love. But that we can only love with agape love through the power of God. It is by God’s miraculous work that agape love has been placed in our hearts.

**Romans 5:5** tells us that..... **the love of God has been poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.**

- Out of our obedience to the gospel. God not only cleanses us from our sin, but He fills our hearts with His agape love. Enabling us to love others unselfishly.

In fact **this love** is the evidence that **we are true believers**. This is not something that we can fabricate or fake very long. Our selfish nature will come to surface fairly quickly, **if God's love has not been poured into our hearts.**

**John 13:35 (NKJV) — 35** By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

This love is not only to be pure, coming from selfless motives. But that love is to be fervent. A love with which we strive with all our energy. This type of love is not a matter of feelings, but a **matter of will.**

- A matter of choice. It is choosing to care for and love others just as God cares for, and loves us. Even though we fall so short of deserving His love.

But God knows that we could never love with such a love on our own. It is the Holy Spirit that transforms and pours this agape love into our hearts. But we also have been given the word of God in order to instruct us on just how we are to do this.

The Same truth of the gospel that enabled us to become children of God also **enables and guides** us to **live and love** as God's children.

**2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NKJV) — 16** All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, **17** that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Being thoroughly equipped for every good work. If all of the law and the teaching of the prophets hangs on the command to love God and love others. Then Every Good Work will present itself in deeds of love. **The things we think, the words we speak, and the actions that we do.**

### III. lay aside – what is not love

But agape love is a choice. It is based on emotions or feelings. It is a matter of will. It is a choice to live out of the love that God has already poured into our hearts. Since this love involves the will, **it requires action, on our part.** This action involves not only what we are willing to do. But what **we stop doing.**

**1Peter 2:1** So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech.

The word therefore refers back to the command to love one another with a **pure and fervent love.** But in order to do so, we must **put off** unloving practices.

The same word interpreted as “lay aside” is also used of **taking ones clothing off**. We are to **strip off the old garments** worn by the sinful persons we once were.

**Ephesians 4:22–24 (NKJV)** — **22** that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, **23** and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, **24** and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Essentially everything about our old self was selfish and unloving. Therefore, we are put off or lay aside the filthy garment of:

**(Evil Behavior )Malice:** Meaning to have an evil intent or ill will towards someone. A deliberately cruel or violent intent to hurt someone. This could include any evil action against another person.

**Deceit:** Carrying the idea of baiting someone falsely.

**I have often heard of it in reference to fishing.** You are deceiving the fish into thinking that they are going to get a meal when your real **intention is to make them the meal**.

I think of the term con-artist. Someone who is **purposely hiding an aspect of the truth in order to gain an unfair advantage over someone else**. Something that comes to mind is a rigged election.

**Hypocrisy:** A modern description is **being two faced**. Acting as one person while actually being another. It is trying to make others see us as someone other than who we really are. It really goes hand in hand with deceit.

When I think of the word hypocrite. I can't help but be reminded of **Matthew 7:5** where Jesus called a person a hypocrite who goes around looking for the spec in another person's eye while they themselves have a plank hanging out of their own eye. That person is acting like they have it all together. Yet the reality is that they have more issues than the other people that they are condemning.

Jesus said to first deal with our own planks, then we can **honestly and lovingly** help the other person remove their spec.

**(Jealousy) Envy:** Envy is the act of comparing. This is an ugly and selfish garment that we often try to wear. It is the refusal to celebrate the gifts or blessings given to someone else.

It was out of envy over God's acceptance of Abel's sacrifice that ultimately led Cain's heart to be willing to murder his brother in cold blood. It was out of envy that King Saul sought after David's life. **Envy demands that self be first in everything**. Being selfless and being envious are at polar opposites of each other.

**(Unkind speech) Evil Speaking:** This is the act of tearing others down through words. It can involve slander but it may involve speaking the truth. **Without the intent of love.** The intent is to tear that person down or put them in a bad light. **Not to edify or build them up.**

These deeds have no place in the life of a believer, who is called to love. This how we used act before coming to Christ. But spiritual maturity does not just come naturally as a believer. We must be spiritually fed by the word of God in order to come into maturity.

**2** Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, **3** now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness.

A newborn baby will be satisfied with nothing short of milk. Either his mother's milk or formula. That baby will not be content or satisfied if you try to replace that milk with let's say a cheeseburger or even a steak. That baby's body needs the nourishment of milk in order to grow.

Our need for the word of God is very much like that baby's need for milk. There is nothing else that can satisfy our need for spiritual nourishment than the bible. We need to be living daily on a steady diet of God's word.

There is no other replacement. **It is God's word that thoroughly equips us for every good work.** It's not books on Christianity, or even the daily devotional booklets. As much as we can receive from these things. **They are merely snacks in the life of a believer.** They can never replace the nourishing quality of God's word in enabling the believer to grow into spiritual maturity.

Spiritual maturity is a life of obedience to the command to love God and love others. It is the through the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives, and the process of putting into practice the truth of God's word that brings us into this maturity.

**Prayer**