

The Duty of God's People Toward the Unsaved

1 Peter 2:1-10

WHAT IS TRUE, AND WHAT SHOULD CHRISTIANS DO?

As members of God's family, Christians have a duty to grow into spiritual maturity so that we may reflect Christ's virtues before the unsaved in hopes they will respond to the Gospel by the power of the Holy Spirit.

1. The Believer's Response to the Word of God: Spiritual Growth (v. 1-3)

- A. "Putting aside" (rid yourselves) ... is a humble **willingness** to do what the Word of God says (v.1)
- B. Believers must be born again; they should have a **desire** for the Word (v. 2). You have tasted that He is good (v. 3).
- C. The Word of God is **necessary** for spiritual growth; believers should **never tire** of the simple truths of the Gospel (v. 2–3).
- D. Our initial "taste" of the Lord's **grace** is first experienced at the time of conversion. His gracious kindness to us (in salvation) whets our appetite for more of Him and His Word (also Ps. 34:8)

2. The Believer's Basis for Growth and Duty to Build Upon

Christ the Cornerstone (v. 4–10) (Is. 28:16, Is. 8:14, Hos. 2:23)

- A. The foundation of this house is **Jesus**, "the living stone"; in union with Him, Christians also become living stones (v.4–8). Those disobedient to the Word stumbled over Jesus. (Ps. 118, Mt.21:44)
- B. As much as God chose Israel, the church was **chosen** to become a royal priesthood and offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God. The duty of priests is to intercede, to be a bridge (Job 1:5, Ex. 19:6)
- C. God works in sinners **mercifully**. Privileges of a Christian: a chosen **race**, a holy **nation**, a **people** for his possession (v.9–10).
- D. Why has the church been chosen? *With Christ as our High Priest, Christians have a duty to reach out to the world with God's plan of salvation.* (v.9, "so that you may proclaim the praises of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light").

CONCLUSION: *Your duty toward the unsaved is to intercede and tell them about Jesus!*