

Reflecting on 1 Peter 2:1-3
The Heads and Tails of Christian Growth
October 31, 2021

Introduction: In this week's text, Peter presents a simple yet profound formula for spiritual growth. He describes two parts of the process that are essentially two sides of a coin:

Side One: Putting away sins against others and God

Side Two: Deeply desiring the transforming word of God (v. 2-3)

We can summarize the text as follows: **When we turn our hearts away from sin, God's word can flood in and cause us to grow!** The challenge of this message is to consider whether we are pursuing this in our lives.

Discussion Starters:

1. This Sunday's message divides into two parts: putting away specific sins and deeply desiring the Word. Which part sticks out to you as important for your spiritual growth right now?

2. The first part the message focuses on putting away (or putting off) the following five sins: Malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander. How do each of these temptations (and the command to avoid them) connect with the call to love in 1 Peter 1:23?

3. Holding onto any of these sins will hinder and even prevent your spiritual growth. This is especially true of hypocrisy. Why is the sin of hypocrisy so dangerous to believers? (See Matthew 6:1, Mark 7:6, and 1 John 4:20 for additional insight.)

4. Do you think slander is a problem in our church or churches like ours? How has modern technology, the rapid pace of modern communication, and the invention of social media affected the frequency of and opportunity to slander?

5. What sources for Bible intake (i.e., study) are available to you as a Christian in 2021? Which resources have you found the most helpful to in recent days?

6. With so many ways to connect with God's truth, what hinders modern believers from consistently getting into God's Word? What is the biggest hindrance to you personally? What would it take for you to overcome this hindrance?

7. At the end of the message, Pastor Pete dreamed up a little scenario where you and a person or two from your Life Group would read a shorter book of the Bible this week and get together at the end of the week to discuss what you've learned. Would you be willing to make that commitment this week? Which book are you going to read and who will be your reading partner(s)?