

SLIDE MEMBERSHIP CLASS

1 PETER SLIDE INTRODUCE

So, if you have your Bibles, and I hope you do,

- please grab them and turn to 1 Peter chapter 1.
- You can open a phone or a tablet to 1 Peter 1,
- or you can use one of the hard-backed black bibles
 - under every single chair.
 - You'll find 1 Peter 1 on page **1014**.

Let's jump right in, 1 Peter, chapter 1...pick it up with me in verse 13:

1 PETER 1:13

[13] Therefore,

CONTEXT

Alright stop there.

- **Therefore** is a conjunctive adverb.
 - It's connecting verses 1-12,
 - with verses 13 and following.

So, what was last week, verses 1-12, all about?

Well, I'll put it like this:

ILLUSTRATION: COMING TO AMERICA

I am a child of the 80s, ok?

I've made that known here many times. The 80s man!

- Really good music...
- really bad hair.

- And I know that mullets are back in...
- so, let's go!
- That sums up the 80s!

But there were also some excellent movies in the 1980s!

- Back To The Future.
- Ghostbusters.
- Raiders of the Lost Ark.
- And the best of all...The Empire Strikes Back.

But one of my favorite 80s movies is a movie called Coming to America.

- You know this movie?
- Eddie Murphy & Arsenio Hall?

Now, listen, I cannot recommend this movie to you,

- because it's rated R,
- and thus, I've never "officially" seen it.

But if I had seen it...Coming to America tells the story...

- of Prince Akeem,
 - the refined heir apparent
 - to Africa's prosperous kingdom
 - of Zamunda.
- Prince Akeem doesn't approve...
- of the prearranged marriage from his parents.
 - And so he makes a journey
 - to the New York City borough of Queens,
 - to find his soulmate.

Now, because he is coming to America to find his bride,

- by definition, he is not planning on STAYING in America.
 - He's just passing through...
 - he's on a mission:
 - to find a wife.

And yet, one thing the viewer notices right away...

- is that Prince Akeem is different...
- from all the other native New Yorkers...
- he comes into contact with.
 - At the barber shop...
 - On the streets...
 - At his McDonald's rip-off job...

He doesn't...

- look like...
- or talk like...
- or act like...the typical American.

It's obvious that he's from another place.

He's different.

EXPLAIN: EXILES

I'm calling today's sermon **SLIDE BE DIFFERENT**

- If you are here and you are in Christ...
 - if you are a Christian...
 - if you have been saved
 - by surrendering all
 - to Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

- When you became a Christian...
- you became a citizen of another place...
 - you became a citizen of heaven!
- You became DIFFERENT.

The metaphor 1 Peter 1 uses is that we're EXILES.

All Christians are EXILES...

- from our true country,
 - heaven...
- and we have taken up residence in another...
 - this world.

We are EXILES...

- That means before you're American...you're Christian.
 - Before you're Korean...you're Christian.
- Before you're a Republican...you're Christian.
 - Before you're a Democrat...you're Christian.
- Before you're White...you're Christian.
 - Before you're Black...you're Christian.
- Before you're a Cougar...you're Christian.
 - Before you're a Buff...you're Christian.

Listen...before anything else in this world...you are a Christian.

And I think some of us forget that!

We don't live like EXILES...

EXILES aren't seeking to make the new country their permanent home...

BUT they also aren't uninvolved or uncaring about the world.

- **While in exile we aren't to fully ASSIMILATE...**
 - **nor are we to be APATHETIC.**
- **Rather, we are to BE DIFFERENT.**

APPLICATION

And here's where we need to be careful, y'all.

- This world...
 - Especially America...
 - Especially Colorado...
- it can, at times, seem like the ultimate place!
 - The mountains,
 - and skiing,
 - and camping,
 - and the city,
 - and sports,
 - and family,
 - and friends,
 - and good food.
- This world! It can be ALL we're about!

But the Bible teaches us this:

- Don't be too DESIROUS of it.
- Don't be too DISINTERESTED in it.
- Instead, BE DIFFERENT from it!
 - *Don't get too comfortable, Chris...*
 - *Don't get too caught up in this world, Chris...*
 - *you're not from here.*
 - *And you're going to your true home someday.*
 - *You're an EXILE.*
 - *And that means you're gonna BE DIFFERENT.*

This is the great tension.

Maybe you've heard it like this before:

- we are to be IN the world...
 - this is where I work,
 - where I live,
 - where I play...
- we are IN the world...
- but we are not OF the world.

Cause the temptations is toward two extremes:

- Go all in on the world...
- Or hide away from, and protect yourself from the world.

But the Bible teaches us to BE DIFFERENT.

TRANSITION: IMPERATIVES

But, how do we do that?

That's what Peter goes into in today's text.

He gives us three imperatives.

You know the difference between an INDICATIVE and an IMPERATIVE?

Gosh, this is so important when studying the Bible.

Real quick grammar lesson:

- The INDICATIVE mood is used to state facts.
 - INDICATIVES are about what God has done,
 - or is doing,
 - or will do.
 - They're statements.
- IMPERATIVES are commands.
 - Imperatives are what we should do.

Now note:

The Bible always starts with the INDICATIVE.

- The Bible always starts with what God has done.
- Before it ever moves to what we should do!

Last week was all INDICATIVE.

Statements of fact:

- You are exiles.
- You have been born again to a living hope.
- You have an inheritance in heaven.
 - Those are all INDICATIVES.
 - Those are the facts.

And today, we find 3 IMPERATIVES.

- 3 commands,
- in light of all that God has done...

Therefore...

verse 13:

1 PETER 1:13

[13] Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

POINT 1: HOPE

The first imperative...how are we DIFFERENT as EXILES?

We have **SLIDE A DIFFERENT HOPE**

Our English word *hope* doesn't really communicate what Peter means.

You see, in English,

- we use the word *hope*
- to refer to something you want to happen,
- but you just aren't sure it will happen.
 - Will I get that job I want? I hope so.
 - Will I meet that special someone this year? I hope so.
 - Will the Broncos make it to the Super Bowl this year?
 - I hope so...
 - we'll see how this afternoon goes...

You see, when WE talk about hope, we mean UNCERTAINTY.

But whenever the BIBLE talks about hope, it means CERTAINTY.

Set your hope FULLY...

- You see, Biblical hope isn't wishful thinking...
- rather, biblical hope is something that you are sure of,
- but it just hasn't happened yet.

So, the DIFFERENT HOPE we have is CERTAINTY...CONFIDENCE...

- in God's future...
- not in our current circumstances.

PARTICIPLE 1: GIRD UP YOUR LOINS

And Peter gives two participles to the command for this different hope.

He says preparing your minds for action AND being sober-minded.

- That's HOW we are to set our hope fully
- on the future God has for us!

So, preparing your minds for action.

Now, that's not what the Greek literally says.

- And our ESV Bibles have a footnote...
- telling us the literal translation.
 - What does that say?
- Yeah, the Greek literally says
 - ***gird up the loins of your mind.***

Now, what does that mean?

Well, in those days, you know, men didn't dress as we do today.

- If you've seen The Chosen,
- the men wore these long flowing robes.

Not exactly the best outfits

- for strenuous activities like running and jumping...
- there was no first century Cross Fit going on.

So, when you wanted to **prepare** yourself for action,

- you would gather the flowing robes
- and you would tuck them into that which girded you...
 - which was your belt or sash.
- So with everything tucked in...
 - and now your bare legs showing,
- you were prepared for action.

So, what Peter is saying is...

- if you want a DIFFERENT HOPE,
 - CONFIDENCE in God's future for you...
- you need to be prepared for some action...
- you need to be girded up...
 - this is the Bible's version of yoga pants...
 - some of you never leave home without them!

But note: he says to **gird up the loins OF YOUR MIND!**

So, put on the yoga pants of your mind! There's an image!

- We need to be mentally prepared...
 - we need to be prepared for strenuous activity...
 - with our whole minds.

Exiled Christians need to be thinking...discerning...wise people.

PARTICIPLE 2: SOBER-MINDED

And then he says **being sober-minded.**

Being sober-minded means seeing yourself correctly!

- There's not a huge gap between how we see ourselves
- and how we actually are.
 - We see ourselves correctly. Ok?
 - We have to understand where we're weak,
 - we have to understand where we're strong,
 - and we have to be dialed into how God made us.

There are no first three episodes of American Idol for an exile.

You got me?

- There's not an, "I can sing,"
- when the rest of the world is like, "Oh, please don't sing."

We're to be sober minded!

TRANSITION

And Peter says this is how we can have hope...certainty...

- **Keeping our minds alert...**
- **And keeping a sober head on our shoulders...**
- **We hope in God's good future.**

That's the first imperative. That we have A DIFFERENT HOPE.

The second can be found in verses 14-16:

1 PETER 1:14-16

[14] As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, [15] but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, [16] since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

POINT 2: LIFE

Ahh...holiness.

Not a very popular idea in our world today!

But this is the second way to BE DIFFERENT from the rest of the world.

We live **SLIDE A DIFFERENT LIFE**

I heard one pastor say:

- You know how *holy* is spelled in Greek?
- W-E-I-R-D.
 - Be weird.
 - Be different.
 - Now, some of you...
 - have been obeying this command...
 - instinctively since birth.
 - Right?
 - You're weird and proud of it!

But I'm talking about an amplified idea of DIFFERENT here.

EXPLAIN: HOLY

The text says **be holy**.

The Hebrew word for holy is *kodesh* which literally means “*cut away*.”

- You are cut away from the world...separate.
- Totally different.
 - You are going to seem weird to everyone around you...
 - because you are literally cut from a different cloth.

Listen, Christians live A DIFFERENT LIFE.

- And IF...
 - at your job,
 - or in your neighborhood,
 - or at your school...
 - wherever it may be...

- IF you are in contact with non-Christians
- and they don't notice anything different about you...
- you better check to see if YOU'RE actually a Christian.

That's a hard word!

- You should LIVE a DIFFERENT LIFE...
- AND they should SEE you as DIFFERENT...
- because you fundamentally ARE...DIFFERENT!

And we actually do damage to the Gospel...

- when our LIPS...
- are out of alignment...
- with our LIVES.

When we say we are Christians...

But we aren't different in any discernible way!

It's called hypocrisy.

ILLUSTRATION: CLINT

Listen, when I first became a Christian in high school, man I blew it miserably at this!

- I didn't grow up in church,
- started going to church in middle school,
- got saved in high school...
 - you do know you can go to church...
 - sometimes for years...
 - and not be saved, right?
 - That one is for free.

But even as I started attending church,

- I kept partying with my friends the same way I did before...
- but I just called myself a Christian.

And I've told you about my friend Clint.

Back in high school,

- Clint and I used to hang out and drink...
 - don't judge me...
- we used to drink Natty Ice...
- Natural Ice Beer.
 - Even if we weren't underage...
 - Natty Ice should be a sin.

And Clint wasn't religious at all.

In fact, he was an outspoken atheist.

- And so, when I started going to church...
- I started talking to Clint about church...
 - over a Natty Ice...
 - oh the irony!

But he started asked me about drinking and partying...

- and the fact that I was now going to church...
 - like, he was confused by the incongruity of it!
- He was like, *“I didn’t think Christians did this stuff!”*

And I remember wanting him to still think I was cool.

- And so, I was like,
 - *“Oh, yeah, my church is cool.*
 - *It doesn’t matter that I still do this.”*

APPLICATION

You see,

- we do damage to the Gospel...
- when our LIPS are out of alignment...
- with our LIVES.

What if you could survey the non-Christians around you?

- What would they say about you?

They should say that you’re DIFFERENT.

- Not that you’re smug...
- not that you’re arrogant...
- not that you’re holier-than-thou...
- not that you’re unrelatable...
- not that you’re unkind...
 - No!

But they should know that you’re DIFFERENT.

That’s part of your mission as an EXILE!

- And to some, that DIFFERENCE will be appealing...
- But to others, that DIFFERENCE will be appalling.

This is really important, so, I need you to lean into this:

- God saved you.
- He put his Holy Spirit inside of you.
- The third person of the Triune God resides in you.
 - And you're telling me that the people...
 - in your sphere of influence...
 - can't see a difference?

May it not be so! We LIVE DIFFERENTLY.

And to some that DIFFERENCE will be appealing.

- This the aroma of Christ.
 - But what is an aroma to some,
 - is a stench to others.

APPLICATION

So, hear me,

- if you aren't a Christian in here,
- let me just shoot it to you straight.
 - In 2023 in Denver, Colorado...
 - if you start following Jesus...
 - it's gonna be hard...
 - it certainly ain't getting any easier!
- Listen, we live in a society now
- that is becoming more and more and more
- appalled at Christians.

But it's a call to live A DIFFERENT LIFE!

It's the life of an EXILE!

TRANSITION

So, how do you do finances?

- Are you just like the world,
- or do you have A DIFFERENT LIFE.

What about sexuality?

- Are you following right after the world,
- or do you live A DIFFERENT LIFE.
 - How about social media...
 - You posting like everyone else?
 - how about alcohol...
 - You drink just like your buddies do?
 - how about gossip...
 - You talking about people WITH people?
 - how about politics?
 - That'll be a fun one to talk about NEXT November!

Is your life distinguishably different in any way?

Christian, you are commanded to live A DIFFERENT LIFE!

Verse 17:

1 PETER 1:17-19

[17] And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, [18] knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, [19] but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

POINT 3: FEAR

The third imperative.

The third way EXILES are different from the rest of the world.

Is we are to have **SLIDE A DIFFERENT FEAR**

- Conduct yourselves with fear

So, the idea of fearing God...

- isn't super popular,
 - even in churches today,
- but it is very important.

Now, some will point to 1 John.

SLIDE 1 JOHN 4:18

[18] There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

BAD FEAR

So, that means there is a kind of fear that is bad.

- There is a kind of fear...
 - that will paralyze you...
 - and restrict you...
 - and you'll have trust issues.
- It's a kind of fear that can rob you of life.
 - You are so afraid that you lose...
 - the fullness...
 - and the goodness of life.

And the love of Christ casts that bad kind of fear out!

But our text is talking about a GOOD fear... **SLIDE A DIFFERENT FEAR**

ILLUSTRATION: PARKING LOT

Here's how I've illustrated it:

- So, about 15 years ago,
- my mother-in-law was walking in the Target parking lot...
- when a distracted woman slammed her car...
- into sweet Mary Robinson.

Mary was rushed to the hospital, and had to have surgery.

It was pretty wild!

- So, I told my daughter Harper that story...
 - when she was three...
 - because I'm a dummy...

And what happened...is Harper developed a fear of parking lots.

- And so, when we'd get to Target,
 - she'd recognize the red Target logo,
- and I'd take her out of the car seat,
- but she wouldn't let me put her down.
 - She'd just slide down my legs,
 - like a fire pole,
 - and hold on to my feet.

Harper was afraid of the parking lot.

Now listen, that's a good fear for a three-year-old:

- So, maybe I wasn't so dumb!

Cause she was far too little for rear view mirrors to see.

- And I love my little girl.
- And I want her to grow up.
- So, I wanted her to have a healthy fear of the parking lot.

That's the GOOD kind of fear.

It's not the BAD kind.

- She doesn't lay in bed at night going,
 - "Oh God, there're parking lots everywhere!"
- It's not crippling her.

If she's still afraid of parking lots in her 20s...we've got a problem!

- like, calling me in college,
- "Dad, there's a parking lot here!"

But at three...it's the good fear.

EXPLAIN: JUDGMENT

What's the GOOD fear...the DIFFERENT FEAR we have?

- The text says:
 - we serve a God,
 - **who judges.**

Now, this is WAY different than the world!

You wanna lose all your cool points with the world?

- Just start talking about God's judgment.
 - Everybody is going to be judged by God...
 - fully and impartially...
 - based on what they did
 - AND why they did it!
 - Nobody is getting away with anything!

That should make us stand in reverent fear of God.

- That judgment would have led us...
- straight to damnation!

But in verse 18 he says: **knowing that you were ransomed.**

Our SALVATION should lead us to the fear of God!

- Meditating on the PRICE of our salvation...
 - how great the judgment of God was against us...
 - and how great the payment he made for us...
 - makes us stand in WONDER,
 - and stand in AWE,
 - and stand in FEAR of God!
- It makes us afraid of being apart from him again,
- and makes us wonder in the treasure he has now given us.

It's fear...but it is a confident fear.

- A FEAR of what your life would be like without God,
- and an AWE of how secure you are with him!

CONCLUSION

So, we're EXILES! This is not our home.

And that means we have

- A DIFFERENT HOPE...
 - Set your hope fully of God's future!
- A DIFFERENT LIFE...
 - Be holy as God is holy!
- and A DIFFERENT FEAR
 - Conduct yourself with fear.

But I've got good news even with these difficult imperatives!

- You are not called to BE DIFFERENT all by yourself.
- You are called to **SLIDE W/PADS** BE DIFFERENT TOGETHER

Remember...this letter is to churches!

To those EXILED TOGETHER!

ILLUSTRATION: COWS VS BUFFALO

I heard another pastor share this illustration...

When a herd of cows senses a storm coming,

- they run away from it,
- scattering as they go.
 - I don't know if cows are known to be smart
 - or dumb animals.
- But they scatter and flee.

Now, of course, the storm always catches up with them,

- and it is especially hard on them...
- because they are now alone...
 - not with the herd anymore.

But Buffalo, by contrast, when they sense a storm coming,

they instinctively do the opposite:

- They huddle together...
- and they actually walk into the storm.

I'm sure their cow cousins think they are crazy,

- but this gives them three advantages:
 - First, it shortens the storm for them,
 - because they are literally walking through it.
 - Second,
 - their fur is thicker on their front sides...
 - than it is on their backsides,
 - which gives them extra protection for warmth.
 - But third, they find additional protection
 - from being huddled together.

ENDING

And that illustrates what we're going after in 1 Peter.

We get to BE DIFFERENT TOGETHER!

- We're not going to run away from these hardships,
 - we're going to press into them,
- AND we're going to do it together.

We are called to BE DIFFERENT TOGETHER.

You see, this is what the church ought to be about!

- We ought to have...
 - the newer Christian...
 - or the weaker Christian...
 - or the wounded Christian...
- and we ought to take them
- and put them right in the middle of the herd.
 - *"Get in here!"*
 - *It's safer in here.*
 - *The world...that storm...*
 - *it won't affect you as much when you're here."*

This is why we believe in covenant membership here, church!

So, Christian...

- you're called to be an EXILE...
- you're called to be DIFFERENT...
- this world is not your home...
- you're from another country...
 - you're from Zamunda...

And you have a mission!

- Not to find your queen!

- No, your mission is to BE DIFFERENT...
 - and that will be the aroma of Christ...
 - to the lost and dying world around you.

But take heart!

- You don't have to do it alone!

If you're not IN here...come on!

- Get in here!
 - Get in the center of this herd!
- Let's BE DIFFERENT TOGETHER.

Pray with me.

RESPONSES:

Well, every week at Fathom we respond in 4 ways:

- COMMUNION – THE LORD’S SUPPER
- GIVING TITHES & OFFERINGS – fathomchurch.org/give
- PRAYER - fathomchurch.org/prayer
- SINGING

So, I’m going to read the Words of Institution from the Apostle Paul, we’ll take communion, and then we’ll sing:

1 CORINTHIANS 11:23–26 – WORDS OF INSTITUTION

[23] For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[25] In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[26] For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Love you church, let’s stand and sing together.

RESOURCES CONSULTED:

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- Jobes, Karen H.. Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament. 1 Peter.
- Keller, Tim. *The Battle for the Will*.
- Keller, Tim. *Holiness*.
- Loritts, Bryan. *Passing Through Without Passing By*.
- Schreiner, Thomas R. The New American Commentary. 1, 2 Peter, Jude.