

1. What did the text mean to the biblical audience?

Structure diagram 1 Peter 1:14-21

As **obedient** children,

do not be **conformed** to the passions  
of your **former ignorance**,

<sup>15</sup> but as He who called you is holy,  
you also be holy in all your **conduct**,  
<sup>16</sup> since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

<sup>17</sup> 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,

<sup>18</sup> knowing that you were **ransomed**  
from the **futile ways inherited** from your forefathers,  
not with perishable things such as silver or gold,  
<sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ,

like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

<sup>20</sup> He was foreknown before the foundation of the world  
but was made manifest in the last times

**for the sake of you**

<sup>21</sup> who through Him  
are believers in God,  
who raised  
Him from the  
dead  
and gave  
Him glory,  
so that your  
faith and  
hope are in  
God.

Truths From Cross References:  
Not conformed

1 Peter 4:2-3  
Romans 12:2  
Titus 3:3

### **Your Former Ignorance**

Acts 17:30  
Romans 3:25

A clear “before and after” in the believer’s life: past conformity to ignorant, futile ways (like those inherited from forefathers) versus present obedience as God’s children. This ignorance fueled passions that shaped behavior apart from God’s truth, but salvation demands nonconformity to that old pattern.

### **Conduct**

James 3:13

### **Call on Him as Father**

Jeremiah 3:19-20  
Malachi 1:6  
2 Corinthians 6:16-18

### **Judges Impartially**

Deuteronomy 10:17  
Psalm 51:15-17

### **You were ransomed (redeemed, liberated)**

1 Corinthians 6:19-20  
Titus 2:11-14  
2 Peter 2:1

**Questions to use when preparing a Bible Study to uncover a passage's main theological point.**

**1. God-focused questions:**

- What does this verse show about who God is (His character, attributes, names, actions)?
- What does it show about what God loves, hates, desires, commands, or promises?
- How does this verse fit with God's overall purpose in the Bible's big story (creation, fall, redemption, new creation)?

**2. Gospel / Christ questions:**

- How does this verse connect to the person and work of Christ (who He is, what He did, what He is doing)?
- What problem of sin, brokenness, or spiritual need does this verse highlight, that the gospel answers?
- Does this verse point forward to Christ, flow out of Christ's work, or describe life in Christ?

**3. Human-condition questions:**

- What does this verse teach about people: our nature, identity, temptations, or tendencies?
- What "fallen condition" or heart issue (belief, desire, fear, idol) is exposed here?
- How does this verse show who I am "in Adam" (apart from God) or "in Christ" (redeemed)?

**4. Redemptive-story / context questions:**

- Where are we in the Bible's storyline (before the law, under the law, in the church, new creation)?
- How does the surrounding context (paragraph, chapter, book) clarify the main point of this verse?
- If this verse were missing from the Bible, what key truth would be lost?

**5. Main-point questions:**

Use these to force yourself to summarize the core theology in one sentence.

- If I had to state the author's main point in one sentence, what would it be?
- Which words, images, or repeated ideas carry the most weight in this verse?
- Is the verse mainly describing something (narrative) or prescribing something (command)? What truth about God and His ways does that reveal?

A helpful test: "This verse mainly teaches that God is \_\_\_\_\_ and therefore His people must / can \_\_\_\_\_."

### **6. Response / implication / application questions:**

These don't change the meaning, but they help you see why the theological point matters.

- If this verse is true, what should I think differently about God, myself, or the world?
- What should I now believe, desire, or hope for because of this truth?
- What concrete obedience, repentance, or comfort flows from this verse's main truth?
- Is there a command to obey in this passage?
- Is there an example to follow or avoid in this passage?
- Is there a reality to affirm in this passage?
- If so, how should that reality impact my life? (desires, thoughts, beliefs, actions)
- How can I praise Him through this scripture?
- How can I confess my sins on the basis of this scripture?
- If this is really true, what harmful emotions, what wrong behavior or false attitudes result in me when I forget this?
- What should I be aspiring to on the basis of this text?
- Why is God telling me this today?
- How could my life be different if I were absolutely sure of every one of God's promises that He gave me in this scripture?
- What are some of the challenges or roadblocks that make applying/obeying difficult? (sinful desires, temptations, struggles, wrong ideas, the culture we live in, etc.)
- What would it specifically look like if I lived this out?