

Read 1 Peter 2.

Last Sunday night we listened to Peter
Make an appeal for us to love one another without hypocrisy from the heart.

He assumed we had already purified ourselves to do so.

It was important to him, just as it is important to Jesus that we have a
"sincere love of the brethren" and that we "fervently love one another from the heart."

It is against human nature to put others before self.
It is against human nature to lay down your life for others.
It is against human nature to love.

If we are to be able to love as Peter commanded, we need help.

Strength has to come from somewhere.

IT DOES.

"for you have been born again not of seek which is perishable but imperishable,
that is, through the living and enduring word of God."

The word of God is **PENETRATING**.

The word of God is **POWERFUL**

The word of God is **PRESENT**

Peter told us if we would allow the word of God to get inside us,
It has the power to work from the inside out and change us
To make us a people who truly
"fervently love one another from the heart."

It is a simple truth we learned last Sunday night.

- 1) We are commanded to love.
- 2) We are able to love because of the word of God.

Peter is building on that here.

There are four things we see in our text tonight.

#1 THE CAUTION

1 Peter 2:1

Since we are commanded to love,
Since the first secret to love that Peter outlined was purifying yourself.
Peter outlines some natural love busters that we must watch out for.

You can't love if you haven't purified yourself.
I want to again reemphasize how true this is.

Love is not an emotion.
Love is an action.

Love is not a chemical reaction.
Love is a choice.

And the point to be made is very simple.
You will not choose the proper action toward someone else
If you have not yet denied yourself.

It is very fitting to examine the love chapter again.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 "Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

Every one of those actions flies right in the face of selfishness.

- A selfish person **isn't patient**.
- A selfish person **isn't kind**.
- A selfish person **is jealous**.
- A selfish person **glorifies self**.
- A selfish person **sacrifices the good of others for the good of self**.
- A selfish person **gets angry when wronged**
- A selfish person **wants what they want, regardless of truth**
- A selfish person **won't endure, won't trust, won't hope**

All you have to do is look at a 2 year old.

If you have not purified yourself, you cannot love others.
You have to die to self.

So in Peter's desire to encourage us,
There are 5 love busters, we had better watch out for.

And he begins his list by saying,
"Therefore, putting aside"

In order to be able to truly love one another,
These characteristics have to go from your life.

1) ALL MALICE

(KAKIA = kaw-kia) = "badness in quality" or "a vicious character generally"

You cannot fully love others, if you are a vicious person.
Someone who is just mean in nature.

Malice is not love for, "does not act unbecomingly"

2) ALL DECEIT

(DOLOS = dough-loss) – "to bait, to snare, deceit" (KJV = guile)

It is the concept of doing good and saying, "you owe me".
That isn't love, that is selfishness cloaked in deception.

This is the type of love false prophets readily offered.

They would tell the people what they wanted to hear, in order to gain their approval and be popular, but it was deceit, and only cost the people in the end.

This is not love, for **"love does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices in the truth"**

3) HYPOCRISY

(HUPOKRISIS – hoo-po-kris-is) – *the word used for an actor, and the masks he wore.*

It is the concept of saying you love someone, but not showing your love.
This is also a very self-serving attitude.

It is seeking to reap the benefits of love, without fully sacrificing in love.

This is not love for love **"does not seek its own"**.

4) ENVY

(PHTHONOS – tho-noss) = *"displeasure at another's good fortune"*

It is those who can't stand to see someone else succeed,
Especially if they succeed at my expense.

You can't really sacrifice for others if sacrificing for others irritates you.

It is not love to constantly want what others have, especially if that desire is to the point where you are angry that they have it and you don't.

This is not love, for love **"is not jealous"**

5) SLANDER

(KATALALIA – Kat-a-la-lia) = *"evil speakings"*

Again this is not love to speak evil against others, or to speak evil about others.

In fact you have heard what Jesus taught.

Matthew 5:21-22 "You have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.' 'But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell."

A person would speak evil of another person obviously doesn't love them, for love "is not provoked"

You can see Peter's point.

It is human tendency to have **malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander.**

Peter cautions, that **if you desire** to be someone who **"fervently loves one another from the heart"** you will have to **"lay aside"** these things.

There is no room for love in self.

YOU CAN'T BE FULL OF LOVE WHEN YOU ARE FULL OF SELF.

I want you to see Jesus here.

1 Peter 2:22-25 "WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls."

Instead of **malice** we see that He **"COMMITTED NO SIN"**

Instead of **deceit** we see that **"NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH"**

Instead of **hypocrisy** we see that He **"kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously"**

Instead of **envy** we see that **"He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross"**

Instead of **slander** we see that **"while being reviled, He did not revile in return, while suffering, He uttered no threats"**

**Had Jesus had malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, or slander,
There is no possible way He could have loved us enough
To lay down His life for us.**

We must lay aside those love busters as well.

#2 THE COMMAND

1 Peter 2:2a

"like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word"

Again, you will remember why this is so important.

**We said last week that the secret to loving others
Is to allow the word of God to work in you and through you.**

1 John 5:1-3 "Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome."

Love and obedience run real close together.

**The strength to love comes from
Letting the word of God manifest itself in your life.**

Therefore, Peter's command only makes perfect sense.

If you truly want to love, then lay aside the things that keep you from loving, and go after the things that help you to love.

That is why Peter gives the simple command here.

He didn't say, READ the word.

He didn't say, OBEY the word.

He didn't say, LISTEN to the word.

(all of which are commanded in Scripture)

He said, "long" .he pure milk of the word"

The word "long"

Means to "desire, or lust after"

It speaks of having an obsession.

It speaks of having tunnel vision.

It speaks of wanting that worse than you want anything else in the world.

And to help you understand exactly what he means,
Peter gives a little illustration.

"like newborn babies"

Hannah is sweet UNTIL...

When she gets hungry, the fangs come out.

DO YOU KNOW WHY?

She lusts after milk. She has tunnel vision.
She can't see past it, she can't see around it.

At that moment she **doesn't care** what the temperature is in the house.

At that moment she **doesn't care** what her brother is doing.

At that moment she **doesn't care** if her diaper is wet or dry.

ALL SHE WANTS IS FOOD, AND SHE WANTS IT NOW.

**That is how Peter said we should go after the word.
The word of God ought to be our obsession.**

The reason of course is because
It is what will transform you into a person who loves.

Psalms 19:7-10 "The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether. They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb."

Psalms 119:97-104 "O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies, For they are ever mine. I have more insight than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the aged, Because I have observed Your precepts. I have restrained my feet from every evil way, That I may keep Your word. I have not turned aside from Your ordinances, For You Yourself have taught me. How sweet are Your words to my taste! Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth! From Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way."

Psalms 119:129-136 "Your testimonies are wonderful; Therefore my soul observes them. The unfolding of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple. I

opened my mouth wide and panted, For I longed for Your commandments. Turn to me and be gracious to me, After Your manner with those who love Your name. Establish my footsteps in Your word, And do not let any iniquity have dominion over me. Redeem me from the oppression of man, That I may keep Your precepts. Make Your face shine upon Your servant, And teach me Your statutes. My eyes shed streams of water, Because they do not keep Your law."

If you will not lay aside the hindrances, you cannot love.

We easily understand that.

But just as imperative.

If you will not long for the word of God, you cannot love either.

The word of God is the heart of God.

It is God's love poured out on paper.

It is perfect love revealed.

There is nothing earthy in it.

There is nothing of the flesh in it.

The love of God is intertwined in every command,
It is revealed in every verse, it is demonstrated, even in the warnings.

A love without the word of God is not true love.

It cannot be anything more than the best attempt of the flesh
To please others while serving self.

You must heed Peter's caution, and you must follow his command.

#3 THE CONSEQUENCE

1 Peter 2:2b

"so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation"

Here Peter lists the consequence of a person who lays aside self,
And longs for the word.

The person who does this will "grow in respect to salvation"

The KJV simply says this person will "grow thereby"

It means you will grow to be like the word.
You will grow to be what God is intending you to be.
You will grow to be like Jesus.

And by the way this is what you were created for.

Romans 8:29-30 "For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified."

God intends you to become like Jesus.
Remember what we said a couple of weeks ago?

1 Peter 1:16 "because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

It is God's desire that you be like Jesus.
Holy like Jesus, **but also one who loves like Jesus.**

John 15:12 "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you."

**The way to do that is by longing for the word.
It will transform you.**

**In order to be a person who loves like God, the formula is simple.
Put aside sin, long for the word, and let it do what it does best.**

Isaiah 55:7-11 "Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the LORD, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts. "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth And making it bear and sprout, And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it."

You see those same things here.

Lay aside self

"let the wicked forsake his way"
"and the unrighteous man his thoughts"

Long for the word

"let him return to the LORD"

WHY?

"for My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts."

**You see, that is exactly what we've been saying.
You can't love if you aren't in the word,
Because our thoughts aren't as good as Gods.**

But then, if you will get in the word.

"So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire."

DID YOU EVER WANT TO BE MORE LIKE JESUS?

**Then lay aside self, and long for the word.
It will change you and cause you to love like He loves.**

#4 THE CONDITION

1 Peter 2:3

You have to have first experienced the salvation of God.

**If you have never experienced the salvation of God, it can't happen.
If you have never accepted God's love, you cannot give it to others.**

1 John 4:19 "We love, because He first loved us."

I want you to understand why this is the case.

We said that to love others, **you have to get rid of self.** If you haven't accepted the salvation of God, you can't. You are a slave.

Romans 8:7-8 "because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God."

We said that to love others, **you have to long for the word.** If you haven't accepted the salvation of God, you can't understand it.

1 Corinthians 2:14 "But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised."

**Peter wants you to love like God loves.
He wants you to be holy like God is holy.
But if you are not in a relationship with God, it cannot happen.**

**However if you have experienced the kindness of God,
Then it is simply a choice for you.**

**You must now choose to lay aside self, and long for the word.
If you do, you will grow to be more like Jesus.**

SO THERE YOU HAVE IT.

Do you want to love like Jesus loves?

Do you want to have a pure love...A "love chapter" love?

- 1) Make sure you are saved.
- 2) Choose to love by:
 - laying aside self
 - longing for the word.

**If so, you will see others as Jesus sees them,
And you will love them like He loves them.**

1 John 4:7-11 "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."