

Command #3 From Futility to Fear

1 Peter 1:17-21
Sunday May 17, 2026

Pastor Peter Chung

1 Peter 1:17-21 [Legacy Standard Bible]

¹⁷And if you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your sojourn,

¹⁸knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things like silver or gold from your futile conduct inherited from your forefathers,
¹⁹but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

²⁰He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but appeared in these last times for the sake of you

²¹who 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.

Summary and Expectations

- God elected and saved you
- The inheritance is unimaginably great
- The Gospel has been carefully preserved and passed down

Therefore... [Three Imperatives in Response to 1 Peter 1:3-12]

1. Fix (set) hope completely – 1 Peter 1:13
2. Be holy in your behavior - 1 Peter 1:15
3. Conduct yourselves in fear – 1 Peter 1:17

1 Peter 1:13-17 [Legacy Standard Bible]

¹³Therefore, having girded your minds for action, being sober in spirit, **fix your hope** completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

¹⁴As obedient children, not being conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance,

¹⁵but like the Holy One who called you, **be holy** yourselves also in all your conduct;

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

¹⁷And if you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, **conduct yourselves in fear** during the time of your sojourn,

1 Peter 1:13-17 [Legacy Standard Bible]

¹⁷And if you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, **conduct yourselves in fear** during the time of your sojourn,

Two truths about the Christian

- Heir of heaven [cf. John 8:44; Galatians 4:7; Philippians 3:20]
- Sojourner on earth

Two truths about God

- He is the Father Who gives the inheritance
- He is the Judge

The command

God the Impartial Judge

Deuteronomy 10:17–19 (LSB)

¹⁷“For Yahweh your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the fearsome God who does not show partiality nor take a bribe.

¹⁸“He executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and shows love for the sojourner by giving him food and clothing.

¹⁹“So show love for the sojourner, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.

God the Impartial Judge

Colossians 3:22–25 (LSB)

²²Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but with integrity of heart, **fearing the Lord.**

²³Whatever you do, do your work heartily, **as for the Lord rather than for men,**

²⁴knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. Serve the Lord Christ.

²⁵For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.

1 Peter 1:13-17 [Legacy Standard Bible]

¹⁷And if you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, **conduct yourselves in fear** during the time of your sojourn,

Two truths about the Christian

- Heir of heaven [cf. John 8:44; Galatians 4:7; Philippians 3:20]
- Sojourner on earth

Two truths about God

- He is the Father Who gives the inheritance
- He is the Judge

The command

1 Peter 1:17-21 [Legacy Standard Bible]

¹⁷And if you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your sojourn,

¹⁸knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things like silver or gold from your futile conduct inherited from your forefathers,
¹⁹but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

²⁰He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but appeared in these last times for the sake of you

²¹who 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.

The Believer's Eternal Security

Ephesians 1:13–14 (LSB)

¹³In Him, you also, after listening to the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,

¹⁴who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, unto the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

1 Peter 1:5 (LSB)

⁵who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

God the Judge – for the wicked

1 Peter 4:4–5 (LSB)

⁴In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation, maligning you,

⁵but they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

- Jesus entrusted Himself to God the Judge: 1 Peter 2:23
- Judgment begins with house of God: 1 Peter 4:17-19

God the Judge – for the righteous

1 Peter 3:21–22 (LSB)

²¹Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal of a good conscience to God—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
²²who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.

1 Peter 1:13-17 [Legacy Standard Bible]

¹⁷And if you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, **conduct yourselves in fear** during the time of your sojourn,

Two truths about the Christian

- Heir of heaven [cf. John 8:44; Galatians 4:7; Philippians 3:20]
- Sojourner on earth

Two truths about God

- He is the Father Who gives the inheritance
- He is the Judge

The command

Fear (*phobos*)

(2:17) Honor all people, love the brethren, **fear** God, honor the king.

(2:18) Servants, be subject to your masters with all **fear**, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are crooked.

(3:2) as they observe your pure conduct with **fear**.

(3:6) just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. You have become her children if you do good, **not fearing** any intimidation.

(3:14) But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not **fear** their **fear**, and do not be troubled,

(3:15) but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and **fear**,

Fear (*phobos*)

Psalm 27:1–3 (LSB)

¹Yahweh is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear?

Yahweh is the strong defense of my life; Whom shall I dread?

²When evildoers came upon me to devour my flesh, My adversaries and my enemies, they stumbled and fell.

³Though a host encamp against me, My heart will not fear; Though war arise against me, In this I trust.

Psalm 118:6 (LSB)

⁶Yahweh is for me; I will not fear; What can man do to me?

Fear (*phobos*)

Romans 8:31–33 (LSB)

³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?

³²He who indeed did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?

³³Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;

1 Peter 1:17-21 [Legacy Standard Bible]

¹⁷And if you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your sojourn,

¹⁸knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things like silver or gold from your futile conduct inherited from your forefathers,
¹⁹but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

²⁰He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but appeared in these last times for the sake of you

²¹who 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.

JC Ryle (1816-1900) – English Anglican Bishop

“We must beware of thinking too much about our meals, our furniture, our houses, and all those many things which concern the life of the body. We must strive to live like people whose first thoughts are about the immortal soul. We must endeavor to pass through the world like people who are not yet at home, and are not so troubled about the fare they with on the road and at the inn. Blessed are they who feel like pilgrims and strangers in this life, and whose best things are all to come.”

Holiness: Its Nature, Hindrances, Difficulties, and Roots (Chapter 11, titled "The World")