

As Obedient Children

I Peter 1:13-17

Introduction:

- Peter begins to stress our conduct in light of our position- v. 12- “wherefore”
 - I. **BE SOBER-** v. 13-14
 - a. A girded mind- a ready mind
 - i. In eastern lands, people wear long, flowing robes. When they need to walk quickly they tie the robe up around their waist with a belt.
 - ii. "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind" means we are to keep our minds ready for action (spiritual battle) and renewed! This is done through regular Bible teaching, reading, studying, memorizing, meditating, etc. Romans 12:2
 - iii. A girded mind is a mind that is properly instructed by the Word of God
 - iv. V. 14- The problem of ignorance- lack of knowledge of God! Eph 4:17-18, 23
 - v. A sober mind is one that is strong, composed, ready for action. It is unimpeded by distractions! Sadly, we like our distractions too much!
 - b. Are we amusing ourselves to death? From a philosophical perspective, here’s an interesting quote regarding George Orwell and Aldous Huxley: “Contrary to common belief even among the educated, Huxley and Orwell did not prophesy the same thing. Orwell warns that we will be overcome by an externally imposed oppression. But in Huxley's vision, no Big Brother is required to deprive people of their autonomy, maturity and history. As he saw it, people will come to love their oppression, to adore the technologies that undo their capacities to think.

What Orwell feared were those who would ban books. What Huxley feared was that there would be no reason to ban a book, for there would be no one who wanted to read one. Orwell feared those who would deprive us of information. Huxley feared those who would give us so much that we would be reduced to passivity and egoism. Orwell feared that the truth would be concealed from us. Huxley feared the truth would be drowned in a sea of irrelevance. Orwell feared we would become a captive culture. Huxley feared we would become a trivial culture, preoccupied As Huxley remarked in Brave New World Revisited, the civil libertarians and rationalists who are ever on the

alert to oppose tyranny "failed to take into account man's almost infinite appetite for distractions." In 1984, Orwell added, people are controlled by inflicting pain. In Brave New World, they are controlled by inflicting pleasure. In short, Orwell feared that what we fear will ruin us. Huxley feared that what we desire will ruin us. This book is about the possibility that Huxley, not Orwell, was right."

- Neil Postman, Amusing Ourselves to Death

- c. A sober mind-
 - i. "Sober" (1:13) means self-controlled and serious about the things of God. Some people never touch a drop of liquor but they lack self-control. They are not disciplined, and are too careless
 - ii. The opposite is an unstable; double-minded man- James 1:8, 4:8
 - iii. We want to be single-minded where our focus is on Christ!
 - d. Hopeful mind- The expectant trust in Christ's return will help keep our minds girded and sober!
 - e. God's emphasis on the mind- Many Christians today sadly settle for a "faith" that feels good, and bypasses the mind.
 - i. The importance of understanding- I Cor. 14:14-15, 19
 - ii. The battleground of the mind- II Cor 10:4-5, II Cor 4:4
 - iii. In our day, these strongholds of human thought include the theory of evolution, secular humanism, existentialism, materialism, the occult, and false religions
 - iv. We are constantly being tempted, and deceived- This is why we need to have our minds renewed!
 - v. The horrible tragedy in Las Vegas recently reminds us of the depraved condition of man's mind apart from God. Paddock's mind was clearly depraved, and deranged. As a Christian and as a preacher, I do not look so much at the tools used, but I consider the heart and mind of a sinner without Christ! There have been horrible killings done by airplanes (9/11) and homemade bombs used by Timothy McVeigh at the OKC bombing. It is the **mind** of man that needs to be transformed and renewed!
- II. **BE HOLY**- v. 14-16

- a. The main idea behind holiness is the idea of “apartness” or separation. The idea is that God is separate, different from His creation, both in His nature and in the perfection of His attributes. But instead of building a wall around His apartness, God calls us to come to Him and share His apartness. He says to us, “Be holy, for I am holy.”
- b. V. 14- Fulfilling God’s call to holiness requires that we, as obedient children, are not conformed to the lifestyle of the world (which is characterized by lusts and ignorance).
- c. V. 14, 15- Fashion/conversation This can include fashion, but also attitudes, worldview, etc. Our entire lifestyle!
- d. When a person is saved the Holy Spirit works in his heart change him and make him holy. This does not come automatically, so we are commanded to be holy
- e. The standard for holiness is God. We will never reach that level of perfection this side of heaven, but should be growing and maturing in holiness- illustr baby growing up.

III. **BE REVERENT-** v. 17

- a. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge- Proverbs 1:7
- b. The Bible describes believers as "strangers and pilgrims" passing through this wicked world (2:11), and we are to pass the time of our sojourning in the fear of God (I Peter 1:17).
- c. The "judgment" in I Peter 1:17 is a reference to the judgment seat of Christ because these words of exhortation are given to Christians, and Christians will not stand at the Great White Throne judgment.
- d. Writing to Christians, the apostle Paul said, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (II Cor. 5:10).
- e. God will judge us, not as a stern judge with wicked sinners, but as a "Father" (1:17) with His children.
- f. God is impartial, and just! If we are "obedient children" (1:14), we will receive a good reward.

Conclusion:

- As obedient children we need a respectful fear- the same one we address as Father is the One who is our Judge
 - Fear of displeasing Him
 - Respect for His character and His ways