

Loving With a Deeper Love

Strangers and Aliens

1 Peter 1:22 - 2:3

January 19, 2020

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

Context:

You and I are navigating through a world that's not our home. We're Strangers and Aliens. Our true home is in heaven! Yet, here we are. As we study 1st Peter we're learning how to thrive even when we feel like we don't fit in. So far in our current series, we've learned that we can do that by:

- Enduring trials with joy while we wait for an inheritance in heaven (and)
- Becoming more like Christ in front of a watching world.

Now we'll discover that we can have a positive effect on this strange culture by doing what is probably the hardest thing of all: engaging each other with a deeper love.

Key Scripture -

1 Peter 1:22-2:3:

²² Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, ²³ since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; ²⁴ for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you. ^{2:1} So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. ² Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

1. Peter commands his readers, who have been exiled from Rome in the 1st Century, to obey the truth of the Bible. Peter knows that this will lead to the kind of brotherly love that will guide them well and make the gospel attractive to non-believers. Have you ever been turned off by an unloving church? What did you experience? What does deep Christian love look like to you?
2. The Bible is the cause, or source, of deep Christian love. Peter tells us, through the words of the prophet Isaiah, that the “word of the Lord remains forever.” How often do you read the Bible? How does your life change when you do? What’s something you’ve learned from the Bible recently?
3. In order to love each other well, we are to put away particular behaviors that are damaging to others. The list in 1 Peter 2:1 is long and convicting. Which ones do you struggle with the most? Take a moment to pray. Ask God to help you.

NEXT WEEK’S TOPIC

1 Peter 2:4-10 – Proclaiming the excellencies of Jesus Christ, who is the Cornerstone

