

1 Peter “Walk the Talk” GROW Study: Session 2 Life Fellowship Church

Welcome

Begin session with Prayer

Anyone new today?

▶ **Class: Walk the Talk**

➤ **7-week study on 1 Peter:**

- **1. The Battle for Holiness: 1 Peter 1: 13-16.....Today**
- **2. When I Don't Feel Like Being Good:
1 Peter 1: 17-25...TODAY**
- **3. An Appetite for Being Good: 1 Peter 2: 1-12.....Feb 7**
- **4. Refuse to Get Revenge: 1 Peter 2: 19-25.....Feb 14**
- **5. Learn to Live in Peace: 1 Peter 3: 8-17.....Feb 21**
- **6. Get Ready for a Rough Ride: 1 Peter 4: 1-19.....Feb 28**
- **7. You're in Good Hands: 1 Peter 5: 5-11.....Mar 7**

▶ **Review – Session 1**

➤ ***The Battle for Holiness: 1 Peter 1: 13-16***

- ***Why read this book?***
- ***Who wrote this book and why?***
- ***To whom was it written?***
- ***Where and When was it written?***
- ***What was the background behind this book?***
- ***What to look for in 1 Peter?***

➤ ***Discover the Eternal Principles***

- ***To be holy, you must prepare your mind for action.***
- ***To be holy, you must think differently.***
- ***To be holy, you must learn to concentrate on God rather than your own efforts.***

▶ **Walk the Talk - Session 2**

➤ ***When I Don't Feel Like Being Good***

- ***1 Peter 1: 17-25 NIV***

- ¹⁷ Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear. ¹⁸ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. ²⁰ He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. ²¹ Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.
- ²² Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.^b ²³ For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. ²⁴ For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord stands forever."^c (Isaiah 40:6-8) And this is the word that was preached to you.

▶ Australia: Coat of Arms

- Emu/Kangaroo Characteristic?
- Not found in any other species
- What is it?
- Answer: The inability to move backwards
- Emu
 - Has 3 toes all on the front of the foot
 - If he tries to walk backwards he'll fall down
- Kangaroo
 - Long and heavy tail will trip him if he tries to go backward
- These animals were picked to symbolize Australia as a nation that will never fall back but keep moving on against all odds
- Emu/Kangaroo Characteristic



▶ Principle: Spiritual significance

- Both animals must move forward all the time
- As believers/Christians, we must move forward all the time against all odds
- God is a god of:
 - forward movement
 - forward thinking
 - doing good
 - Winning battles of the mind when spiritual integrity and character counts
- These are important points for today's session

▶ Peter Drucker says:

- "The best way to predict the future is to create it"
- When a person meets Christ, that person will never be the same! Their future is forever changed!
- Peter says in 1 Peter 1:23

- “For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living enduring word of God”
- ▶ The circus lion tamer and the stool
 - The lion tries to focus on the 4 legs of the stool at once, causing it to lose focus, become tame, and weak, mentally fragmented
 - We need to focus on God, not all of the other things we fill our lives with.....**WALK THE TALK!**

▶ Walk the Talk - Session 2

- *When I Don't Feel Like Being Good*
 - **1 Peter 1: 17-25**
- *Being good makes sense*
 - *This study discusses what is a split-second decision.....*
 - *Whether in any given moment you do the right or the wrong thing*
- **Goal: get good at being good**
 - *This means learning to live a life of INTEGRITY*
 - *Or, learning to become obedient to God*
 - *Integrity and Obedience go hand in hand*
- ▶ Identify the Current Issue
- ▶ **Being good means living a life that is consistently obedient to God's will—choosing to do the right thing day in, day out.**
- ▶ **Being good may be easy to define, but it's not always easy to do.**
 - **By our very nature we don't always want to do what we know we should.**
 - **The choice to obey is a split-second decision, and it is always our choice.**
 - **There is not a sermon you can hear, a church you can attend, a seminar you can go to, or a self-help book you can read that will compel you to act with integrity in any given situation.**
 - **It is your choice. However, there are things behind the scenes of every choice you make—things you think about and believe—that either empower you or cause you to fail to act with integrity.**
- ▶ **So what if you don't feel like being good?**
 - **Then you need to remember that being good makes good sense, and build the necessary foundation to develop a habit of obedience.**
- ▶ **Discussion:**
 - **How would you define “being good”?**
 - **What is the hardest part about being good?**
- ▶ **What causes us to fail to want to be good?**

▶ Discover the Eternal Principles

- ▶ **1. Being good opens the door to God's blessing in your life.**
 - **God's laws apply to everyone evenly across the board, and he established them in such a way that if you obey, you are blessed, but if you disobey you are not blessed. It's that simple.**

- Did you ever play the “quiet game” when you were in school? In Mrs. Crider’s third-grade class, whenever it rained the students would have to stay inside during recess. That was bad enough, but Mrs. Crider’s idea of fun was to have us spend a half hour playing the quiet game. The player stood in front of the class and picked the person who was being the quietest. Of course, everyone in the room was equally quiet. So, what did everyone do? They picked their friends. In fact, there was often a group who agreed in advance to only pick each other. So, even though everyone in the class was being equally quiet, one group picked each other in an endless loop, until Mrs. Crider finally got wise to it.
- Some people think God’s judgment is like the quiet game—two people can do the same thing and God will bless one and not the other. It doesn’t work that way, because God doesn’t bless according to whim, he blesses according to his laws.
- Pretend two people go to a car dealer and look at the same car. The first guy doesn’t know the dealer, and he asks, “How many miles will I get to the gallon?”
- The dealer says, “According to the tests that have been done on this car, you’ll average 30 miles to the gallon.”
- The next guy comes to look at the car. He’s a friend of the car dealer—an old school chum. (They used to play the quiet game together.) He asks the dealer, “How many miles to the gallon?” and the dealer says, “Well, according to the tests you’re supposed to get 30 MPG, but since you’re my good friend I’ll let you get 40 miles to the gallon.” A car dealer can’t do that. He can’t override the laws of physics and combustion engine design just to do a favor for a friend.
- In the same way, God doesn’t overlook his laws to give you a special deal on obedience. God judges each man’s work impartially. This, according to what you do, will either work for or against you.
- There are certain cause-and-effect laws at work in our lives. If you eat right and exercise, you will be healthier than if you eat junk and sit on the couch all day. If you study, you’ll make better grades than if you watch TV all day. If you show love and mercy to the people in your life, your relationships will be more rewarding than if you show hostility and judgment. If you obey God, your life will be blessed more than if you disobey. The apostle Paul, who suffered greatly for his faith, agreed with this. Read Romans 2:6–7.
 - “God will give to each person according to what he has done. To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. “
- This doesn’t mean that everything will be perfect if we obey God, but we will open the door to his blessings.
- An electrician said, “I have a healthy respect for electricity, which is to say I’m afraid of what it can do.” He isn’t afraid to work with or benefit from electricity, but he has a reverent fear of its power. He knows electricity doesn’t play favorites. It doesn’t matter if you are a master or a novice, if you break the rules, you’ll get the shock of your life.
- It works the same way with God’s laws. Obey and you will be blessed; disobey and you won’t be blessed. If you don’t feel like doing good, if you need a motivation for being obedient, this is one reason being good makes sense: It opens the door to God’s blessing in your life.
- Read 1 Peter 1:17. “Since you call on a Father who judges each man’s work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear.”

- Questions
 - What does it mean that God judges each person’s work impartially?
 - What does it mean to have a reverent fear of God?
 - *Leader’s Note: We should fear God when we thumb our nose at him in disobedience, not when we are trying to do what is right. He is a just and loving God, but he is also powerful and holds our eternal future.*
 - How are God’s impartiality and our reverent fear of him different from our relationships with our earthly fathers?
 - Does God’s blessing mean that everything will go well for us if we obey him? How might the apostles, who died for their faith, answer that question?
 - *Leader’s Note: The apostles certainly felt blessed because God was using them in a powerful way. They also felt blessed because they were no longer enslaved to sin, but living purposeful lives. Blessing does not mean we won’t have problems; we just have purpose and direction in the midst of them.*
- ▶ 2. *Being good is the right response to the goodness of God.*
 - Walking in obedience and living with integrity is the goal of every believer, but it is not your good works that save your soul. You can’t get right with God and earn eternal life by doing good works.
 - The Bible says that the only way to get right with God is to put our faith in Jesus alone, because Jesus has done everything to bring us into a right relationship with God—at a great price.
 - If you live a perfect life and never commit a sin—never tell a lie, cheat, steal, think an impure thought, or break any of God’s laws—then you, by your own goodness, will be in a right relationship with God. Now, by a show of hands, how many of us qualify? Anyone? I guess not. We all have this in common: we have all sinned.
 - A father overheard his three sons talking loudly. One boy said, “Oh yeah? Well one day I climbed on top of the house and jumped off and landed on a purple butterfly, and I flew on his back all across town.”
 - And the next boy said, “Oh yeah? Well one day Spot dug a hole in the back yard and when I looked in I could see all the way to China.”
 - And the next boy said, “Oh yeah....”
 - At this point the father said, “What’s going on here? What’s all the shouting?”
 - His oldest son said, “We found a quarter and we don’t know whose it is. So we’re having a contest. Whoever tells the biggest lie gets to keep it.”
 - The father shook his head and said, “Boys, boys, boys. Where did I go wrong? When I was your age I always shared with my brothers, and I never made a game out of lying.”
 - The boys hung their heads, and the one with the quarter held it out and said, “That’s a good one, Dad. I guess you win the quarter.”
 - We have all sinned, the Bible says, and fallen short of God’s ideal. No one has lived a perfect life, and we deserve judgment. Each of us must deal with the sin that separates us from God.
 - The good news is that Jesus dealt with our sin for us. When he died on the cross, his death paid the price for our sins and the punishment we deserve. Every one of us has done things we regret. We would have had to live with the guilt of our actions forever—but Jesus made it possible to be forgiven and be right with God. When we

put our faith in him, he forgives us and cleanses us from every bad thing we have done. When we put our faith in him, we are right with him, once and for all, forever and ever.

- So, live a life of integrity, not so that God will accept you, but because God has already accepted you. He has forgiven you. When you accept Jesus Christ into your life and allow him to take control, he wipes the slate clean and removes all your guilt and shame. Whatever eternal punishment you deserved, he cancels the debt. In Romans 3 the Living Bible says he acquits you and declares you not guilty.
 - If you need a reason to be good when you've got a choice to do right or wrong, remember what Jesus did for you. He died on the cross and shed his blood so that you can be forgiven. The only right response to his mercy is to live a life of obedience.
 - Read 1 Peter 1:18–21.
 - What kind of empty way of life was handed down by our forefathers?
 - How does knowing that Christ shed his blood for you motivate you to obey God? What does that tell you about God? Name as many things as you can think of.
 - Why does the fact that God raised Christ from the dead (v. 21) motivate us to obedience?
 - How do our faith and hope (v. 21) also motivate us to obedience?
 - Give human examples of how someone's love and commitment to you motivated you to be a better person. How might this compare to God's love and commitment to us?
 - Which of the following do you think best represents 1 Peter 1:18–21?
 - *a. Since Jesus died for me, I feel guilty and should serve him to pay him back.*
 - *b. Since Jesus died for me, I'm convinced of his love for me. Therefore, I want to obey him because he obviously has my best in mind.*
 - *c. Since Jesus died for me, I must obey him or I'll be punished.*
 - *Why did you pick the statement you did? Which statement would be most motivating to obedience?*
- ▶ **3. Being good makes you qualified to spread goodness to others.**
- Read 1 Peter 1:22–25. Peter said, "You purify yourself by obeying the truth," and this enables you to show love to others—a deep and pure love from the heart. The more good you do, the better you become; the better you become, the more you are able to spread goodness to others.
 - What made it possible for a person like Mother Teresa to do what she did? How could she invest her life ministering to the so-called untouchables of Calcutta, to the poor, to AIDS victims, to the sick and dying? How could she do it? Is it because they are easy to love?
 - Someone supposedly said to Mother Teresa, "I wouldn't do what you do for a million dollars." Her response was, "Neither would I." Mother Teresa was able to show such love to the unlovely because she was good. She became good through the grace of Jesus Christ, and through her obedience she was able to show more and more love to those who are desperately in need.
 - Justification happens when you accept Jesus Christ as your savior. Justified means "just-as-if-I'd" never sinned. He wipes the slate clean.

- Sanctification means being holy or set apart. This is an ongoing operation in our lives; we are always in the process of becoming holy or good. Peter says you become holy (*purified is the word he used*) by obeying the truth. You become good by doing good. As you grow in purity, you grow in your ability to show love to others.
- In a split-second moment of decision, when you're faced with the temptation to commit a sin, you'll hear a voice saying, "It doesn't matter. No one will know. You can get away with it one more time."
- There's another voice, spoken from the pages of Scripture, that says, "If you obey the truth, you will purify yourself and become more holy. And as you become more holy, you will be able to love others more and more and share that love with the world."
- When you face the split-second moment of decision, here's the reason to choose good: You need it, and the world needs it. Your obedience makes you a better person and ultimately helps you make the world a better place.
- So losing your temper isn't quite so insignificant; making a snide remark isn't quite so harmless; bending the rules isn't quite so inconsequential.
- Every time you obey God it increases your capacity to love others.
- Being good makes sense because you need it and the world needs it.
 - How does obedience to God make us more loving to others?
 - If our so-called obedience is not making us more loving to others, what should that tell us? Give examples of things that might look like obedience, but in fact make a person less loving.
 - What does it mean to love deeply from the heart (v. 22)?
 - Why does the frailty of humans (v. 24) make it even more important that we love others?
 - In what way is God's Word the key to obedience (v. 25)?

► Points to remember...

1. Biblical integrity is not just doing the right thing; it is a matter of having the right heart and allowing the person you are on the inside to match the person you are on the outside.
2. A good word that reflects integrity is consistency. There must be consistency between what is inside and what is outside.
3. God is totally consistent. His actions and behaviors always match his character and nature.
4. Integrity requires discipline
 - Disciplined people can do the right thing at the right time in the right way for the right reason
 - People let us down again and again because there is often a discrepancy between what they claim to believe and how they actually live.
 - God will never let us down because he never changes.. His promises are as good as his unchanging character
5. The Biblical virtue of integrity points to consistency between what is inside and outside
6. Between belief and behavior, our words and our ways, our attitudes and our actions, our values and our practices.
7. Integrity suggests a person whose life is whole – a witness.
8. Ethics, Morality, Integrity
 - Ethics: standard of right and wrong, good and evil. What the Pharisees said they believed was right.
 - Morality: a lived standard of right and wrong, good and evil. What the Pharisees actually did.

- Integrity: consists of our personal system of ethics, morality, scripture, values.....all the above and, how we execute this system..... **Our Walk!**
9. Leadership and Integrity
- What a leader does has a greater impact on those he or she wishes to lead than what a leader says. 1 Tim. 4:15-16.
 - In this life we never attain perfection but there should be progress toward the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
 - Paul exhorts Timothy to watch: your life and your doctrine.
 - Financial matters tend to bring out what is really inside a person. Ps 15:4b, 5b.
10. Secrecy and Small Things
- How do you live when no one is looking?
 - So much of our lives is consumed by image maintenance. Mt. 6:1
 - It is possible to live one life publicly and another privately. That is not integrity. It is an invitation for God's discipline. Mt 6:4.
 - God is far less concerned with your public persona than he is in your private character.

Bottom Line: The world evaluates a person's integrity from what it sees in man's outward behavior. God judges integrity from what He sees in a man's heart, for "Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the Lord ponders the hearts" (Pro 21:2)

▶ **Apply Your Findings**

- ▶ ***If there are times when you don't feel like being good, welcome to the club. We all have days when we do not live up to what we know we should do.***
- ▶ ***Regardless of how we feel, being good makes sense because when you obey God***
 - ▶ ***you open the door to his blessings in your life***
 - ▶ ***you express gratitude to him for his love and mercy***
 - ▶ ***you make yourself a better person and, ultimately, the world a better place***
- ▶ ***If you don't feel like obeying, remember these reasons why being good makes sense.***
- ▶ ***Action Points:***
 - ▶ ***list the reasons why you often do not want to obey God.***
 - ▶ ***look over the teaching points again and write next to your reasons what you can do to counteract those feelings.***
- ▶ ***Close in prayer asking God for the courage to choose what is right in the day-to-day decisions we make.***