

## The Serious Business of Hope pt. 2 Response Guide

1 Peter 1:22-2:3

Bethany Assembly of God

6/28/2020

- This message was the second part of a message about hope from 1 Peter 1:13-2:3. Read over that longer passage to gain a fuller context.

### **Big Idea: You can set your hope fully on God's grace.**

- Last week's attitudes of hope were: You should be holy in all you do and you should be reverent while you're here.
- This week's attitude is:

### **3. You should earnestly love one another.**

- What does love have to do with hope?
- 1 Peter 1:13 says that love comes after purifying yourself by obedience to the truth. What does Peter mean by that? Why should love follow that purity? To what "truth" is Peter referring?

"Purifying your soul by obedience to what you now know of God and His ways is a result of what God has done in your life. You're bearing fruit. You're becoming holy because God is holy."

- Have you ever heard of "cheap grace"?

"In emphasizing the grace of God, some have fallen into the error of thinking that nothing is required of the believer."

- Peter reminds us that we are to purify our souls according to the gospel. We cooperate with the sanctifying work of the Spirit who makes us like Christ. This does not mean that we deemphasize grace. It means we exalt the grace of God expressed in the blood of Jesus so that we see it's value and cooperate with the change the Holy Spirit brings.
- One of those changes is love. Peter begins with the word *philadelphia* – brotherly love or family love. Talk or write about what family love looks like.
- Peter moves from family love to earnest love from a pure heart (v. 23). What do you suppose he means by this shift?
- How can you express earnest love from a pure heart?

- How do verses 24-25 add value to Peter's picture of familial love?

(Here's a clue: "Christian growth cannot be self-centered and individualistic, for it occurs in the context of fellowship, a fellowship which *must deepen and remain for all eternity*." - Wayne Grudem, emphasis added)

- Think through the list of things to "put off" from 1 Peter 2:1. Can you give an example of each?
- Do you need to repent of malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, or slander in your life?
- What do craving pure spiritual milk and putting off malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander have to do with one another?
- Have you ever heard a baby cry for milk? Will the child stop crying if she isn't fed? What is Peter trying to tell us about how we should love one another through this image?
- If we claim to long for heaven, how will that be exhibited in how we love one another?
- Who is the Holy Spirit calling you to love in a tangible way?
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