

Not Conforming Looks Different Than You Think

I Peter 1:13-16

*Introduction (picture)

Opening prayer

*Illustration - A Hidden Life movie synopsis (picture)

“...for the growing good of the world is partly dependent on unhistoric acts; and that things are not so ill with you and me as they might have been, is half owing to the number who lived faithfully a hidden life, and rest in unvisited tombs.” -George Eliot

For some of us, people may never know how we lived faithfully in a tumultuous time...

Ppt. *conform - behave according to socially acceptable conventions or standards, be similar in form or type, to fit into a mold...

Q. What does this mean?

-obvious ways that Christians look different than the world (sexually moral lifestyles, not given to drunkenness and drugs, choosing life, identity in Christ rather than our sexual orientation, etc.)

-not so obvious (how we care about neighbors, treat our servers and cashiers, conduct ourselves at work and school, how we communicate on social media, what we do when we are alone)

Wayne Grudem:

Therefore refers to the great ‘salvation’ blessings explained in verses 3 to 12. Because of their possession of these, Peter’s readers are to think and act in certain ways.

Grudem, W. A. (1988). [*1 Peter: an introduction and commentary*](#) (Vol. 17, p. 80). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Ppt. I Peter 1:13-16

13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. **14** As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, **15** but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, **16** since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

Ppt.

1. **Be prepared**

(v. 13) Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded...

The phrase *gird up your minds* is in Greek literally ‘gird up the loins of your mind’ (so av), an almost unintelligible phrase for modern readers unfamiliar with the ancient Oriental custom of

gathering up one's long robes by pulling them between the legs and then wrapping and tying them around the waist, so as to prepare for running, fast walking, or other strenuous activity
Grudem, W. A. (1988). [1 Peter: an introduction and commentary](#) (Vol. 17, pp. 80–81). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Ppt. Greek: “gird up the loins of your mind...”

Ppt. I Corinthians 2:16

“For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

*Remind yourself what you know to be true (“You are not in control, God is.” -Jason)

Pastor Brian: prepare our minds for action

Spurgeon refers to it as “*pulling ourselves together.*” We might say, “*It’s time to roll up our sleeves and get to work.*”

typical coronavirus response - me and my family (don’t just stop there)

I am encouraged (social media examples)

Ppt.

2. **Do not lose hope**

a “living hope”

(v. 13) “...set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

Such hope in great blessings when Christ returns not only encourages downcast Christians; it also prompts a reordering of priorities according to God’s agenda (Matt. 6:19–21, 24) and inevitably leads to ethical changes in one’s life

Grudem, W. A. (1988). [1 Peter: an introduction and commentary](#) (Vol. 17, p. 81). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Ppt. Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Ppt. 2 Corinthians 4:17-18

For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, **18** as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

(see also: Psalm 147:11, Isaiah 40:31)

Ppt.

3. **Do not be conformed**

-do not give in, do not do what the world is doing

(v. 14) As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance

Ppt. Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Ppt. II Peter 1:4

...partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

Ppt. I John 2:15

Do not love the world or the things in the world...

Ppt.

4. **Be holy in ALL of your conduct**

(v. 15-16) ...you also be holy in all your conduct...“You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

Ppt. Leviticus 11:44 (and throughout the book)

For I am the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy...

Ppt. Holy - exalted or worthy of complete devotion as one perfect in goodness and righteousness

Completely different (other): God and us

-God

Ppt. Isaiah 6:3

"Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory."

(see also: Rev. 4:8, Psalm 71:22)

-Us

To be holy 'as God is holy' includes a full and pervading holiness that reaches to every aspect of our personalities. It involves not only avoiding outward sin but also maintaining an instinctive delight in God and his holiness as an undercurrent of heart and mind throughout the day
Grudem, W. A. (1988). *1 Peter: an introduction and commentary* (Vol. 17, p. 84). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

In summary:

Quote

Ppt. “If Peter’s readers will first know the great truths about their salvation (vv. 1–12) and then begin a habit of visualizing themselves personally on a path of life leading without fail to

unimaginable heavenly reward (v. 13), they will be mentally and emotionally ready to strive for a life of holiness before God (vv. 14–16).”

Grudem, W. A. (1988). [1 Peter: an introduction and commentary](#) (Vol. 17, pp. 81–82). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Ppt. II Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Ppt. Ephesians 4:22-24

...to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, **23** and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, **24** and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

*metamorphosis - monarch butterflies (**picture**)

WE MUST LOOK DIFFERENT than the world around us.

Ppt. Exodus 34:29-35 - Moses' veil

When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. **30** Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses, and behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him. **31** But Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses talked with them. **32** Afterward all the people of Israel came near, and he commanded them all that the Lord had spoken with him in Mount Sinai. **33** And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face. **34** Whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would remove the veil, until he came out. And when he came out and told the people of Israel what he was commanded, **35** the people of Israel would see the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face was shining. And Moses would put the veil over his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

time with God - countenance, joy, hands ready for action

*the moon shines in the darkness because of the hidden light of the sun (many people today struggle to see the light of God, so may they see His reflection in you)

Culture today - shaped by politicians, celebrities, and sports icons

Ppt. Acts 2-6 – the early church created and shaped the culture

*The Rise of Christianity - Rodney Stark (**picture**)

Epidemics in the 2nd and 3rd centuries in the Roman Empire

Dionysius writes, "Most of our brother Christians showed unbounded love and loyalty, never sparing themselves and thinking only of one another. Heedless of danger, they took charge of the sick, attending to their every need and ministering to them in Christ, and with them departed this life serenely happy; for they were infected by others with the disease, drawing on themselves the sickness of their neighbors and cheerfully accepting their pains. Many, in nursing and curing others, transferred their death to themselves and died in their stead...The best of our brothers lost their lives in this manner, a number of presbyters, deacons, and laymen winning high commendation so that death in this form, the result of great piety and strong faith, seems in every way the equal of martyrdom."

-Non-Christian aid/compassion is evident today but not in the past

"The heathen behaved in the very opposite way. At the first onset of the disease, they pushed the sufferers away and fled from their dearest, throwing them into the roads before they were dead and treated unburied corpses as dirt, hoping thereby to avert the spread and contagion of the fatal disease; but do what they might, they found it difficult to escape."

As Christianity continued to rise and spread, emperor Julian sought to match the charities of Christianity with his own pagan ones but they were no match as Christian virtue was rooted in the Biblical teaching that says, "do to others as you would have them do to you, it is more blessed to give than to receive, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."

-Christian faith gave a reason/purpose for this

-Christian virtue did not just spring up in times of crisis but both pagan and Christian writers stressed that this was normal everyday behavior. Tertullian claimed, "It is our care for the helpless, our practice of lovingkindness, that brands us in the eyes of many of our opponents. 'Only look,' they say, 'look how they love one another!'" (Jesus, said, "This is how all people will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.")

*Christian doctrine provided a prescription for action - simple nursing of people back to health

Compassion legacy - it was the Christians who led the way...cared for the poor, the sick, and the dying, started missions and half way houses, hospitals, orphanages, etc.

Children - abortion/infanticide (adoption)

humanitarian aid - Samaritan's Purse there first

Ppt. Matthew 5:14-16

14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. **16** Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (NKJV)

Application:

Be prepared, do not lose hope, do not be conformed, be holy in ALL of your conduct

Ppt.

1. **Care for people** (hope and pray for the best, but be prepared)

-Neighbors - check in, buy groceries, offer to watch children

-Work/School/Church (reach out to someone everyday)

-Online/Social Media (The Magic Hour short film)

-Stores/Restaurants (how can we bless them? offer to pray for them)

-Disease/Death (what will you do?)

Ppt.

2. **Do not live in fear** (worry)

“I will be with you” Isaiah 43 (when you pass through the waters...) Psalm 23 (Even though I walk through the valley...)

Ppt.

3. **Identify with the global church**

Persecuted Church

the poor and needy

Not conforming looks different than you think

So, think AND act differently (at this time, do what is right, not what is easy)

-Obedience/conduct/behavior (not just holy in good times but in bad)

Ppt. Closing Prayer

A Liturgy For Those Flooded By Too Much Information

(Every Moment Holy by Douglas Kaine McKelvey)

In a world so wired and interconnected,
our anxious hearts are pummeled by an endless barrage of troubling news.
We are daily aware of more grief, O Lord,
than we can rightly consider,
of more suffering and scandal than we can respond to,
or more hostility, hatred, horror and injustice
than we can engage with compassion.

But you, O Jesus, are not disquieted
by such news of cruelty and terror and war.
You are neither anxious nor overwhelmed.

You carried the full weight of the suffering
of a broken world when you hung upon
the cross, and you carry it still.

When the cacophony of universal distress
unsettles us, remind us that we are but small and finite creatures,
never designed to carry the vast abstractions of great burdens,
for our arms are too short and our strength is too small.
Justice and mercy, healing and redemption, are your great labors.

And yes, it is your good pleasure to accomplish such work through your people,
but you have never asked any one of us to undertake more than your grace will enable us to
fulfill.

Guard us then from shutting down our empathy
or walling off our hearts because of the glut of unactionable misery
that floods our awareness.

You have many children in many places around the globe.
Move each of our hearts to compassionately respond
to those needs that intersect our actual lives,
that in all places your body might be actively addressing
the pain and brokenness of this world,
each of liberated and empowered by your Spirit to fulfill
the small part of your redemptive work assigned to us.

Give us discernment
in the face of troubling news reports.
Give us discernment
to know when to pray,
when to speak out,
when to act,
and when to simply
shut off our screens
and our devices,
and to sit quietly in your presence,

casting the burdens of this world
upon the strong shoulders
of the One who
alone
is able to bear them up.

Amen