

Christ Church Clifton Sermon Notes & Questions



Series: 1Peter Spring 2021

Passage: 1Pet 3:1-18 Call to surrender to holiness

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Be holy, call to radical behaviour, Seen video of Handforth parish council, behaviour towards one another and especially bullying of woman Jackie Weaver kept her cool, read standing minutes was refrain!

How not to behave, they never thought the world would see and laugh and enjoy, but God sees our behaviour, v12 for the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, he sees us. Peter addresses 2 groups in church most seen as inferior in ancient world, slaves now women, if against slavery old and modern, against subjugation, maltreatment abuse of women. Note domestic abuse has risen during lockdown.

1Peter 1³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.

Radical grace radical living hope leads to radical change in behaviour, at home at work in the world. *1 Peter 1¹⁵ But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶ for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."* Be holy, chapter 1, be holy as I am holy. Peter writes about radical behaviour at home in relationships, with others in society even if facing persecution, why? Because Christ died and rose again for us, revere him as Lord. He is trying to encourage those facing persecution. 3 themes in our preaching this term surrender, confidence and trust.

Call to surrender old patterns of behaviour to have confidence in Jesus to trust in him risen from dead. Radical grace cause radical behaviour change, do things differently now you know Jesus Christ. Further detail on call to surrender to holiness.

1. Call to be holy in relationships
2. Call to be holy in face of evil
3. Call to be holy in your speaking

Why? Because Jesus Christ. Be holy as he is holy.

1. Holy in relationships, v1-7 Look at context women treated as inferior, downtrodden, upper class Roman elaborate hair braiding and fancy jewellery, (in statues) lots of time and energy spent in outward looks. Peter first talks to many Christian women with non-Christian husbands, don't nag them into kingdom won't work, persuasion by godly behaviour, how we behave matters, people notice, especially in family life. Inner beauty is more important than outward beauty, *1 Sam 16⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."* Remember singing "Man looks on the outside but God looks on the heart" with action. Both men and women take ages spend lots on right makeup or hair, or body building or right gadgets or trainers or wear designer labels. Beauty is in inside,

⁴ Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight

Don't be preoccupied with outward look, spend as much time on inward purity and holiness, a content person shows in the face, true beauty. Holy women of the past Sarah, Rebecca, Ruth and Hannah, look at their behaviour despite outward circumstances of their lot in life. Mighty women of CC, Emma Morris, look at how adorn themselves, see their inner beauty, love for God comes over on zoom when sharing testimony.

⁷ *Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life*

Call to be considerate, treat others equally, don't force to submit, don't bully because your physical strength is stronger, no domineering in relationships. Surrender to call to be holy, surrender to others, be holy.

Call to be holy and pure in relationships, whether married or not, work on inner beauty, gentle quiet spirit, inside matters, can see in face!

2. Call to be holy in face of evil. V8,9

⁸ *Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.* ⁹ *Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing*

Call to distinctive radical, holiness, in non-Christian world. Not to give as good as you get! Rule for behaviour inside and outside church on zoom or face to face in person. Be like minded, sympathetic love others, compassionate and humble, showing empathy with others, even if disagree with them listen and love. Don't repay evil for evil, insult for insult, remember Jesus though he was insulted he said nothing in trial. Look at Jesus example. Human nature give back as good as I got, then seek revenge, they did ... so I will ... They called me a ... so I will call them a Treat others as you would like to be treated with respect, with sympathy with love. Also call for how we behave on social media, trolling writing anonymous blogs, But don't just not retaliate, but rather pray a blessing on them, even harder to do! Bless others so you are blessed.

Example of someone hurting me greatly, writing horrible email, returning a card I had sent in the post, I pray blessing for them every day, God bless X. Keeps my heart soft otherwise I'd devise horrible ways of getting back to them, doesn't change their behaviour but affects my heart, soft heart to others. Bless your enemies remember Sermon on the Mount.

Paul Rom 12 ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

Jesus Matt 5v43 ³ "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven.

Blessing keeps our hearts soft and pure, surrender your need for revenge, surrender to Jesus, give up your anger. Call to bless call down God's gracious power and love on all people even those who wish us harm. so call to be holy in our relationships, holy in face of evil,

3. Call to be holy in your speaking

Again 1Pet 2v1 *Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind* Slander, speaking badly of others, quote in 3:10-12 from Psalm 34:12-16.

'Whoever would love life

and see good days

must keep their tongue from evil

and their lips from deceitful speech.

¹¹ *They must turn from evil and do good;*

they must seek peace and pursue it.

¹² *For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer,*

but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil. ¹[Psalm34 v12-16]

Our tongues are to be surrendered to God speak holy, be pure, tongues can do dreadful language words once written or spoken can linger of tweets/letters/from past where language is analysed and condemned

danger of social media of writing anonymous blogs or tweets, guard your tongue, often better to say nothing. (when children were small rule, don't say it unless true, kind and necessary) good adage. V12 from psalm 34 reminds us God sees and hears what we say, what we write in secret, or think about someone behind closed doors, God sees, like a zoom video call everytime you speak or do or think something..Call to be holy, ask Holy Spirit to help you, to prompt your conscience.

¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

Surrender our tongue use it for blessing not cursing, do talk share your story, you never know when someone asks you, "why do you go to church? Why do you believe in God? How can you still trust God after pandemic? How you speak is so important with gentleness and winsomeness, wins others over. You can be right in what you say, correct in your words but so wrong in the same way you say it, e.g LLF, speaking About human sexuality. Speak with gentleness and respect. Is your conscience clear? People don't know how to respond Proverbs 15v1 *A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.* See how a softer tone a gentle answer calms down situations,

So call to be holy, in our relationships with others, in face of evil, in our speech, but why? Because Jesus. Revere him as Lord v15. Trust in Jesus have confidence in him died and risen.

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit

V18 one of most succinct profound statements of doctrine of atonement an encouragement to those who suffer unjustly those persecuted, Christ died for you to bring you to God, in union with him. Rejoice in your sufferings Christ has triumphed over evil over demonic forces over oppressors over our persecutors he has triumphed. Be confident in that living hope of chapter, trust in Jesus his death and resurrection.

Questions for study:

Optional starter Discuss what you thought of the Handforth Parish council video!

1. Read 1 Pet 3v1-7 and share honestly your reaction to this passage. What advice is there for women (or men) with non-Christian spouses?
2. Describe someone you know with inner beauty. Read 1Sam 16v7, why don't we look on the inside as much as the outside of people? How can we all cultivate inner beauty?
3. Read 1 Pet 3v8-9 and Matt 5v43. Describe how you behave to those who oppose you, give examples of personal enemies and how you can find a way to bless them.
4. Read 1Pet 3v10-12, and also 1Pet 2v1, what does it say about holiness in speech? What do we struggle with most?
5. Look at 3v15, if a friend asks you why you go to church? Or why you believe in God? What would you say to them? Are you prepared?
6. See Prov 15v1, where have you seen this done in practice? Why is it effective?
7. Read 3v15-18, why do we surrender to this call to holiness? Meditate on v18 a summary of Jesus atonement.
8. Finally, reflect in what specific area God is challenging us to grow in holiness? In relationships, towards our enemies and in our speech. Share and pray for one another.