

Living as Exiles Pt. 2  
1 Peter 2:13-3:1

ETS: Peter explained what Christ did and how it enabled believers to live as exiles.

ESS: What Christ did enables us to live as exiles.

OSS: I want people to understand how we can live as exiles

PQ: Do you understand how to live as an exile?

UW: How?

**ME**

Throw out something old but didn't want to give it?

- Baby Blanket...give to Santa Clause...didn't want to give it!
  - It was my comforter!
  - It was my friend!
  - It was my cuddle-bunny

Maybe it was the old truck?

- Rusted out, seats were torn, windshield cracked, but it was your old buddy!
  - You helped build the house with that old truck
  - You moved the kids to college using that old truck
  - You have your first date in that old truck!

## Maybe it was china setting

- Missing a glass or two, have a couple of cups that are chipped
  - It was your great grandmother's place setting
  - It was a gift to you when you got married
  - It brought back memories

## WE

We have a difficult time giving things up—especially if they have sentimental value to us

If you had to give something up – that was special to you—what brought you to the point where you were willing to give it up?

We have to be brought to a point where we are CONVINCED that a *GREATER GOOD* or GREATER NEED will be fulfilled **if** we give it up!

- **Blanket** in exchange for a drum set!
- **Old Truck** in exchange for a new truck or old truck given to son to help him as he starts out.
- **China** passed down to daughter as a family **heirloom** tradition

It could be you are *forced* to give something up

- **Sell the old truck or the china set to pay the bills so you can stay in your house!**

To give something up that you have become accustomed to requires you to be **CONVINCED** that a **GREATER GOOD** or **GREATER NEED** will be fulfilled **if** we give it up!

Furthermore, the **LONGER** you have something the **more difficult** it is to give up!

- **Time can create a *personal* connection—even to an inanimate object!**
  - That **thing** becomes a **part** of you
    - It may become part of your **identity!**

## **GOD**

### **Turn to 1 Peter 2**

We have been **camped** out in **1 Peter 2** for a couple of weeks!

- Why? Because we ran into **10 commands** of Peter
  - We had to ask “Is Christianity all about a series of ‘do’s’?”
- Why? Because some of these commands seemed to be **“over the top”**
  - I.e. *slaves submitting to cruel masters!*

REALITY: We naturally do not want to DO these commands!

## 1 Peter 2:11-20

- Command #1: *abstain from sinful desires that wage war against the soul.*
  - Admit it: We don't want to "*abstain from sinful desires that wage war against the soul.*"
    - Sin is fun! If you don't have fun sinning you are doing it wrong!
- Command #2: *Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles...*
  - This doesn't seem bad since we are gentiles, so let's rephrase this in our context... *Conduct yourselves honorably among people you may not respect...*
- Command #3: *13 Submit to every human authority because of the Lord...*
  - Admit it: There are "Human authorities" we don't want to submit to!
- Command #4: *16 Submit as free people, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but as God's slaves.*
  - Admit it: Christians like to use our "Freedom" as a cover up for evil.
- Command #5: *17 Honor everyone.*

- Admit it: We don't want to honor everyone—some people we don't think are deserving of honor!
- Command #6: *Love the brothers and sisters.*
  - Admit it: Some “Brothers and sisters” in the church are not always very loveable!
- Command #7: *Fear God.*
  - Admit it: We say we “Fear God” but our actions are often in defiance of God!
- Command #8: *Honor the emperor.*
  - Admit it: If you didn't “VOTE” for the man, it is difficult to “honor” him!
- Command #9: *18 Household slaves, submit to your masters with all reverence not only to the good and gentle ones but also to the cruel.”*
  - Admit it: This command right here is enough for many people today to argue that the Bible is irrelevant and passages like this are offensive. This is command is tough!

**1 Peter 3:1** Command #10: *“In the same way, wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands...”*

- Admit it: **This command** right here is enough for **many people** today to argue that the **Bible** is **irrelevant** and **passages** like this are **offensive**.
  - How dare this command is even mentioned.

I imagine that a **few stomach muscles** tightened up as we walked through these commands!

- WHY? There is **something inside** of us that *doesn't like one, some or most* of these **commands!**

That “**Something**” is **SELF**—the “**flesh**”

- **SELF** is at the **center** of your being
  - **SELF** has been at the **center** of your being since you were **born!**
    - All we have known is **SELF** at the **center** of our being!
- **SELF** has been the *driver* of our **minds, will** and **emotions!**
- **SELF** has been the *driving force* of how we use our body!

*Until we heard the Gospel, we were not aware of SELF*

**When you hear the Gospel and the Holy Spirit convicts you, SELF is exposed!**

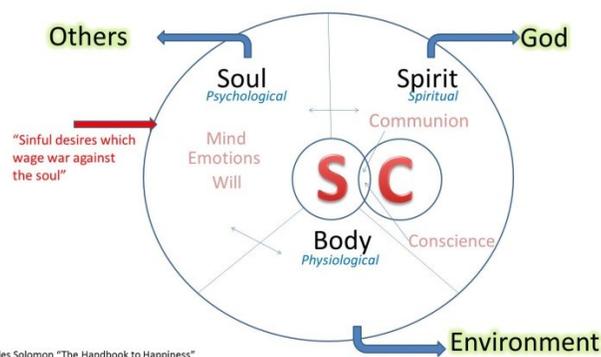
- You realize that **SELF** has been the **driving force** to **sin!**
  - **SELF** is **SELFISH**
    - **SELF** wants to be **placated**
    - **SELF** wants to be **appeased**
    - **SELF** wants **satisfaction!**

When **SELF** is **exposed**, you realize **WHAT SELF HAS DONE** in your **relationship to God, to others and even your own body!**

- Upon hearing the Gospel and **being convicted**, you have a **choice**....
  - **Choice #1: Keep following** self and ignore God's offer of deliverance
  - **Choice #2: Go against** your selfish desire and **humble** yourself before God
    - **Admitting** your rebellion
    - **Confessing** your need for deliverance
    - **Placing your faith** and trust in Christ as your **deliverer**

If you humble yourself before God and place your faith and trust in Him, **Christ moves** into your **“heart”** (Spirit/Soul)

- **Christ pierces SELF!**



**PROBLEM:** SELF still wants to rule!

- Because SELF still wants to rule, **a battle ensues in your heart!**

**Satan does not give up** when you become a believer—in fact, he and his demonic horde begin to **attack** like never before!

- As the “**god of this world**” (2 Cor. 4:4) Satan has led the spiritually “**lost and blind**” to *create a world system that appeals to SELF!*
- With a *world system that appeals to SELF*, Satan can **entice** the spiritually “**awakened**” to *fall back into pleasuring and appeasing SELF!*

Believers are a “**Citizen of Heaven**” but for now, you are **living on earth....**

- Where **Satan reigns** as the “**god of this world**”
- Where there is “**Spiritual wickedness in high places**”

In addition, you still have SELF in you—that *old, familiar sinful nature*; YET you also have **Christ** in you—the “**hope of glory.**”

PROBLEM: We come to passages like this and **SELF** says “**No way**” to all or some of the commands; yet **Christ** says “**These are from me and you need to do them!**”

Paul talked about this **conflict** between **SELF** and **Christ** and he wrote: “So I discover this principle: When I want to do what is good, evil is with me. 22 For in my inner self I joyfully agree with God’s law. 23 But I see a different law in the parts of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and taking me prisoner to the law of sin in the parts of my body. 24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this dying body?”

**(Romans 7:21-24)**

How is it even possible to do these things Peter is commanding us to do?

Last week we looked at vss. 21-25 and we saw that ...

### **Christ is the Example of Complete Submission**

**Christ’s death** was an example of **complete submission** to God the Father!

We noted that if you look back over these commands a common word is: **Submit!**

- **1 Peter 1:13** *Submit to every human authority because of the Lord*
- **1 Peter 1:16** *Submit as free people, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but as God’s slaves.*

- **1 Peter 1:18** *Household slaves, submit to your masters with all reverence not only to the good and gentle ones but also to the cruel.*
- **1 Peter 3:1** *“... wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands...”*

## REALITY:

- These are “**Commands**” because **SELF** doesn’t want to do these things!
- These are “**Commands**” we can **choose to not obey** – *we have free will!*
  - **Peter warned that disobedience can harm/destroy our testimony**
  - **Peter warned that disobedience can harm/destroy our testimony and hurt our chances of seeing that master, government official, friend or spouse come to know Christ!**

## How do we SUMBIT SELF?

- **1 Peter 1:24** *“so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness....”*

Reminder: This word translated as “**died**” is used only **once** in the New Testament.

- It is defined as “**having departed from, or removed from, or completely alienated from.**”

In other words, to become a believer there had to be a **moment of repentance**—of **changing** your **mind**—about your sin!

- There had to be a moment when **you realized** following **SELF** was keeping you from a **relationship with God**.
- There had to be a moment when you **choose** to “**depart**” from your sin, to “**alienate**” yourself from SELF.

But the next phrase gives another reality: You may not “**Live for righteousness**”.

- You **should** “**live for righteousness**” but you still have the **ability** to **NOT** “**live for righteousness**” which is why we have these **commands**!

**SUBMISSION** is required for salvation,  
**SUBMISSION** is required for **SANCTIFICATION**!

What is **sanctification**?

- Means to be made holy

**1 Peter 1:15-16** “But as the One who called you is holy, you also are to be holy *in all your conduct*; 16 for it is written, *Be holy, because I am holy.*”

- These commands are all related to our “**conduct**”

Peter gave this command to believers who are “**HOLY**” in God’s sight because they are “**In Christ**”: YET, at the same time he tells believers to “**Be Holy**”!

Aren’t believers already SUBMITTED to Christ?

- Apparently, you can **SUBMIT** to Christ for salvation, but *not be submitted to Christ for sanctification* (i.e., living out holiness)

***PROBLEM:** We misunderstand submission for sanctification!*

**PROBLEM:** We think *submission for sanctification is achieved* in WHAT WE DO!

- EASY to believe this because this is the message of the world’s system!
  - Message of the world: “You are defined by **WHAT** you do”
  - Message of the world: “You are defined by your **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**”

**SELF** grew up accepting this message of the *world system* as truth!

- **MIND**—What can I **accomplish** that will impress others!
- **EMOTIONS**—I have to be **STRONG**
- **WILL**—I have to **PUSH** through the **barriers**!

SELF is **devious!**

- **Jeremiah 17:9** “The heart is more deceitful than anything else, and incurable—who can understand it?”

SELF says...

- “You need to do GREAT things for God”
- “You need be strong against sin”
- “You need to read your Bible every day”
- “You need to pray every day”

Is there anything wrong with these things? NO!

- Are these things **helpful** and **beneficial** to living the Christian life? YES!

**PROBLEM:** SELF makes DOING the yardstick of living the Christian Life!

- **REASON:** That is how SELF has been **programmed since birth!**

When confronted with the GOSPEL, SELF responded by DOING—Submitting

- **PROBLEM:** After submitting to God and calling out for deliverance, SELF wants to “take the ball and run with it from there!”
  - SELF: “Okay God, I’ll take it from here—just tell me what to do.”

SELF sees these commands –like in **1 Peter**—and says “Okay, here is another list of things I have to do. I’ll add these on top of the many lists from the Apostle Paul and the lists from John.”

**PROBLEM:** SELF still **wants** to sin; SELF is **drawn** to sin!

- Remember, as the “**god of this world**” (2 Cor. 4:4) Satan has led the spiritually “**lost and blind**” to *create a world system that appeals to SELF!*
- With a *world system that appeals to SELF*, Satan can **entice** the spiritually “**awakened**” to *fall back into pleasuring and appeasing SELF!*

To combat our SELFISH desires...

- We **determine to read our Bible** everyday
- We **determine to pray** more consistently
- We **determine to go to church** and get more **involved**.
- We get busy **DOING** things for **God!**
  - People start noticing and say “**She’s a good worker**”
- We may get a position in the church
  - People say “**He’s very involved in the church**”

We are very busy DOING things for God and that **makes us feel good**—we like the **recognition**, we like the **string of accomplishments**, *but we still feel we are a disappointment to God!*

- *SELF* says “*You need to do more!*”
- *SELF* says, “*You need to be better*”

In fact, **we think that by DOING things for God we are a STRONG Christian!**

- Sadly, many people we’d view as STRONG Christians **delve into sin!**
  - We are especially shocked when we hear stories of evangelists, preachers, youth leaders, deacons and elders who have been living sinful lifestyles all the while they were busy “DOING” things for God!

**REALITY: DOING things for God DOES NOT make one a STRONG Christian!**

- Knowing the Bible **does not make one a STRONG Christian!**
- Attending church **does not make one a STRONG Christian!**
- Holding a position in the church **does not make one a STRONG Christian!**

**SUBMISSION is required for salvation,**

**SUBMISSION is required for SANCTIFICATION!**

**PROBLEM:** We have NOT submitted for sanctification!

**OBJECTION:** “I am submitted to Christ-I **read my Bible**”

- “I am submitted to Christ-I **give money to the church**”
- “I am submitted to Christ-I **teach a Sunday School class Bible**”
- “I am submitted to Christ-I **pray daily**”

Yet, despite all you DO—you **never feel victory** in your life!

- You constantly find **yourself giving into sin**
- You constantly feel **inadequate**
- You feel **God is angry** with you
- You feel like a **failure** at being a Christian

**PROBLEM:** We have NOT submitted for sanctification!

**Romans 7:21-23** “So I discover this principle: When I want to do what is good, evil is with me. 22 For in my inner self I joyfully agree with God’s law. 23 But I see a different law in the parts of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and taking me prisoner to the law of sin in the parts of my body.”

- Paul is describing the **battle** between **SELF** and **Christ** in our **hearts!**
  - That battle is there because your **INITIAL submission** to Christ for salvation **awakened you to SIN!**
- Paul is describing the **battle** between **SELF** and **Christ** in our hearts which, *for most believers, wages constantly throughout their lives.*
  - One the one hand, they **want to follow God**, but SELF keeps pulling them back toward sin.
    - There is a **battle** in their **minds**
    - Their **body** is **drawn** toward **sin**

**PROBLEM:** We have not submitted for sanctification!

WHAT does “submission for sanctification” look like?

- **Romans 7:24** *“What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this dying body?”*

## **SUBMISSION BEGINS WITH ADMISSION**

Salvation came to you when you **admitted** your **need** for a **deliverer** from your sins!

After salvation, the next submission happens when a person ...

- **Admits** he/she is **“wretched”**

- Your **WILL**, part of your **soul**, **wants to engage in sin**
- Your **EMOTIONS**, part of your **soul**, **wants to engage in sin**
- Your **MIND**, part of your **soul**, **wants to engage in sin**

The next submission happens when a person ...

- Admit he/she is **prisoner** in a **dying body**
  - WE inhabit a **body** that desire to be **actively engaged in sin!**

MOST of us, don't want to make this admission!

- The world system says "**Humanity is basically good.**"

You can argue that most people are **basically good** people

- Most people tend to be "**MORAL**" people-as the *culture* defines it!
- Most people tend to want to do the "**right thing**"
  - Most people are willing to help their fellow human.

But, **Submission begins with the Admission** that we are NOT good compared to God's standard of holiness!

- In Romans 7, Paul states that God's law reveals how much he falls short of God's holiness!

- Because he sees himself falling short of God's holiness, he has to admit he is **“Wretched”!**
- Because the law revealed his body's desires for those things which fall short of God's holiness, he has to admit he is a **“prisoner in a body of death”!**

MOST believers DON'T want to ADMIT this about themselves!

- **MOST believers still think they are basically “good” people-especially compared to outsiders!**
  - In fact, because they **go to church, give money to missions, read their Bibles, prayer, etc.** they think they are **certainly better** than those who **DON'T** do those things!
- **Some believers still think they are basically “good” people-especially compared to other believers!**
  - They know more Bible verses, they've read their Bibles through more than once, etc.

Is there anything wrong with these things? NO!

- Are these things **helpful** and **beneficial** to living the Christian life? YES!

BUT, DOING is not the same things as BEING!

- Most believers think they must DO so they can BE good Christians

- **REALITY: God calls us to BE and in BEING we will DO!**

To follow these commands in **1 Peter**, *we must BE so we can DO*

- Trying to DO these command in hopes we will BE will not work!

## **SUBMISSION BEGINS WITH ADMISSION**

After salvation, the next submission happens when a person ...

- **Admits** he/she is “**wretched**”
  - Your **WILL**, part of your **soul**, **wants to engage in sin**
  - Your **EMOTIONS**, part of your **soul**, **wants to engage in sin**
  - Your **MIND**, part of your soul, **wants to engage in sin**

The next submission happens when a person ...

- Admit he/she is **prisoner** in a **dying body**
  - WE inhabit a **body** that desire to be **actively engaged in sin!**

For **Salvation: ADMISSION** of the **NEED** to be delivered from the penalty of sin

For **Sanctification**: **ADMISSION** of the **NEED** for Christ to **ECLIPSE SELF!**

- SELF is “Wretched”
- SELF is holding us “Prisoner”

Once you **ADMIT WHAT** you **REALLY ARE**, the question becomes “*Who will rescue me from this dying body?*”

- **WHO: Romans 7:25** “Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I myself am serving the law of God, but with my flesh, the law of sin.”

How do we allow Christ to ECLIPSE SELF?

- **ADMIT** there is **nothing good** in us!
  - We have **nothing to offer!**

Paul expressed his **ADMISSION** this way: **Galatians 2:20** “I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me”

- Paul saw **SELF** on the **cross** with Christ!
  - The **desires** of SELF: Crucified!
  - The **will** of SELF: Crucified!
  - The **emotions** of SELF: Crucified!
- Paul saw **SELF hanging** next to Christ!
  - **SELF died** with **CHRIST!**

Earlier in **Galatians 2:19** Paul stated: “For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live for God.”

- The law (e.g., Old Testament laws) was about DOING things for God as a means to satisfy God’s holiness.
  - The **point** of the OT law was to show the **need** for a SAVIOR—*Humans cannot satisfy God’s justice because “nothing good lives in us!”*
    - The law taught Paul his inadequacies!
- Paul had to come to a place where he had to ADMIT that doing things for God was not working!
  - Paul had to “DIE” to the idea of DOING so that he could “live for God”

HOW did he “Die to the law”?

- Paul saw himself as “Crucified with Christ!”

**SUBMISSION BEGINS WITH ADMISSION**

**WE**

If you are believer, you admitted your need for a Savior

Since coming to Christ have you **admitted** what you really are?

- Can you admit to God that “**nothing good lives in you**”?

- Can you admit to God that you are “wretched”?

Since coming to Christ, have you been DOING thinking that is what you need to do to BE a better Christian?

- Have you BURNED out from DOING?
  - Good! Embrace your burn out and ADMIT that you were wrong!
    - You thought you were basically good and God needed you!
      - He doesn't need you to DO things for Him
        - He wants you to BE with Him!

**PQ: Are you willing to ADMIT so you can Submit?**

Next Week: Conclude this Four Part Mini Series and work through the final key to how to allow live out these commands. But, this week, I want you to wrestle with ...

- Do you see yourself as crucified with Christ?
- Have you been substituting DOING for BEING?
- Have you unconsciously or consciously thought spiritual maturity was about what you DID?

Are you willing to say to God: “I have nothing to offer you, but myself”

Are you willing to let go of trying to DO things for God?

**PQ: Are you willing to ADMIT so you can Submit?**