

**Slide 1**

# Evidence Of A Changed Life

## 1 PETER 1:22-25

### Introduction

1. There is a term which I first began to hear a few years ago. Many of you have perhaps heard it as well — it is the term “adulthood.”
2. I looked it up to make sure I understood it correctly:
  - a. “Actions and behavior that are considered typical of adults, not children or young people” (Cambridge Dictionary)
  - b. “To do grown up things and hold responsibilities” (Urban Dictionary)
  - c. “To behave like an adult” (Meriam-Webster)
3. Years ago, you would hear a parent say to a child who was perhaps in his or her later teenage years, or even early twenties, “it is time for you to grow up.”

**Slide 2**

4. The apostle Paul even uses this as an example in 1 Corinthians 13 when he addresses the way in which Christians are to love one another (v. 11).

“When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things” (1 Corinthians 13:11, NASB95).
5. Those of us who at some point in the past “were baptized into Christ,” as Paul states in Galatians 3:27, “clothed [ourselves] with Christ,” As a result, we are now living changed lives.

**Slide 3**

6. In chapter 3 of his letter to the believers in Colosse, Paul utilized this changed life as the basis for a new focus,

“Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things

above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” (Colossians 3:1–3, NASB95)

7. Here in the first chapter of his letter to the Christians in Asia Minor, Peter has been using our new lives in Christ as the basis for new behavior:

**Slide 4**

- a. Two weeks ago, we examined verses 14-16 where he said,

“As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”” (1 Peter 1:14–16, NASB95)

- b. Last week, in verse 17, we found him saying, “conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth.”

**Slide 5**

8. This morning, here in our text, we find him adding one more thing to his list of new behaviors in which we as Christians should engage. It is in the form of a single command. It is found at the end of verse 22: “ferently love one another from the heart” (NASB95).

- a. “Love one another ferently with a pure heart” (NKJV).  
b. “Love one another earnestly with a pure heart” (ESV).  
c. “Love one another deeply, from the heart” (NIV84).

**Slide 6**

## **I. What Have You Done?**

### **A. YOU HAVE OBEYED THE TRUTH**

“Since you have in obedience to the truth . . .” (v. 22).

1. To obey the truth is to obey Christ (1 Peter 1:2).
2. It is to be born again (v. 23), to be given a new start in life, spiritually speaking.

“you have been born again” (v. 23).

  - a. Back in verse 3, Peter said that we were “born again to a living hope.”
  - b. That hope is of “an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away,” one which is “reserved in heaven for you” (1:4).
3. According to the apostle Paul, in Galatians 3:27, we “clothed [ourselves] with Christ.”
4. All of this we did when we “were baptized into Christ.”

“For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ” (Galatians 3:27).

**Slide 7****B. YOU HAVE PURIFIED YOUR SOUL**

- “Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls . . .” (v. 22b).
1. Upon our obedience to the truth, God makes our soul pure.
  2. He washes away all of our sins through the blood of His Son (Acts 22:16).
  3. Paul described it this way for the Christians in Corinth (1 Corinthians 6:19).

“you were washed . . . you were sanctified . . . you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God” (1 Corinthians 6:19, NASB95).
  4. In his letter to Titus, he described it as “the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit” (Titus 3:5, NASB95).
  5. In the process of purifying your soul, God made you holy, you became a saint.

6. For a brief moment in time our soul is without sin.
7. Would that it remained that way:
  - a. That we would never think another sinful thought.
  - b. That we would never speak another hurtful word.
  - c. That we would never carry out another harmful deed.

**Slide 8**

## II. What Made This Possible?

### A. GOD'S IMPERISHABLE SEED

“For you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable” (v. 23a).

1. Everything which we see around us this morning is perishable, it will eventually be destroyed.
2. In his second letter, Peter tells us that as day is coming “in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up” (2 Peter 3:10).
3. In Job 14:1-2, that righteous man of old tells us that we are no different.

“Man, who is born of woman, is short-lived and full of turmoil. Like a flower he comes forth and withers. He also flees like a shadow and does not remain.” (Job 14:1-2, NASB95)

4. However, there is seed which is “imperishable,” indestructible.
5. That seed is the “word of God.”

**Slide 9**

### B. HIS LIVING AND ENDURING WORD

“Through the living and enduring word of God” (v. 23b).

1. It is living and active (Hebrews 4:12).

“For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12, NASB95)

- a. God’s Word has the power to awaken new life within us.
  - b. It initiates change in our lives as we apply its teachings.
2. It endures forever.

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away” (Matthew 24:35; NASB95).

- a. It can never be made ineffective.
  - b. It is unchanging, vital, ever-present.
  - c. It meets our needs.
  - d. It provides us with a sense of direction and wholeness.
3. When everything around us seems to be coming apart, God’s Word stands firm.
4. All of this is true because the God who speaks this word is eternal, faithful, powerful. He always keeps His promises.

#### Slide 10

### III. What Is To Be The Result?

#### A. BROTHERLY LOVE THAT IS SINCERE

“Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren” (v. 22).

1. When you think of such love, what stands out in your mind?
2. Is it love that is genuine?
3. Love that is without hypocrisy?

“Let love be without hypocrisy” (Romans 12:9).

4. Love that is free from pretense, falsehood, deceit?
5. When our love is sincere, our motive in loving another person is not to manipulate another person in order to benefit ourselves.
6. Instead, we extend ourselves for the sake of the other person.

**Slide 11****B. FERVENT LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER**

“Fervently love one another from the heart” (v. 22c).

1. You may remember two other translations of this command which I shared with you earlier:
  - a. “Love one another fervently with a pure heart” (NKJV).
  - b. “Love one another deeply, from the heart” (NIV84).
2. To fervently love someone is to pour all your energy into the love you have for him or her.
3. It is to work at it, even when it is difficult.
4. It is a love which is constant, enduring, unshaken by adversity or painful circumstances.

**Slide 12**

5. When Jesus gave a new commandment to His disciples in the upper room on the eve of His crucifixion, He connected it with an example (John 13:34).

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.” (John 13:34, NASB95)

6. These words did not fall upon deaf ears.

**12a**

7. Though the apostle Paul was not among those men who initially heard this command, he was at some point taught it through the Holy Spirit (cf. Ephesians 5:1-2).

“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just

as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.” (Ephesians 5:1–2, NASB95)

- a. Imagine how this congregation would be different if each of us were willing to give him or herself up for a brother or sister in Christ.
- b. Imagine how much better so many marriages would be if husbands and wives were both willing to give themselves up for the other.
- c. Imagine how many marriages would still be going strong if the words spoken in their marriage vows were more than just words spoken long ago and quickly forgotten.

**“I take you to be my wedded husband (wife), to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until death do us part.”**

### Slide 13

8. The apostle John remembered it as well (1 John 4:10-11).

“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.” (1 John 4:10–11, NASB95)

- a. It would have been much easier for God to simply destroy His creation and be done with all the sin.
- b. Instead, He chose to do the hard thing and send His Son in order to bring us back to Himself.
- c. Jesus chose to do the hard thing in dying one of the most cruel deaths known to man in order to save us.
  - ❑ Fervent love does the hard thing.

## Conclusion

1. As I pointed out just a few moments ago, all of this was made possible through our obedience to the truth, God’s Word (John 17:17).

2. It is this word, which when implanted into our hearts, “is able to save [our] souls” (James 1:21).
3. A little over 20 years ago, a powerful hymn was written by Barbara Lynn DeShazo which focuses upon the divine origin and the spiritual benefits of God’s Word. It’s title is **“Ancient Words.”**

**Slide 14**

4. As I share with you the words from the song’s four stanzas, think about what is being said, and what you and I are called upon to do.

**Holy words long preserved  
for our walk in this world,  
They resound with God's own heart  
Oh, let the Ancient words impart.**

**Words of Life, words of Hope  
Give us strength, help us cope  
In this world, where e'er we roam  
Ancient words will guide us Home.**

**Slide 15**

**Ancient words ever true  
Changing me, and changing you.  
We have come with open hearts  
Oh let the ancient words impart.**

**Holy words of our Faith  
Handed down to this age.  
Came to us through sacrifice  
Oh heed the faithful words of Christ.**

5. These ancient words many of which were just being written in Peter’s day will change us when we come to them with open hearts.
6. Will you heed the faithful words of Christ this morning?
7. Would you like to be born again to a new and living hope?