



1. Born to a Living Hope

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ According to his great mercy he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and fading not, kept in heaven for you who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1v35

The good news of Christ's gospel is God's delivering power from a futile and finite existence. To be born again is to inherit the imperishable, holy nature and realm of God himself. God, in his power guards this new reality of salvation until the end, when it is fully revealed.

This means we are not swayed or distracted by the adversity, diversions and uncertainty of this age we are in because our Holy Spirit anointed expectation is fixed in God's unmoveable plan and power. Additionally, our fixation on God's eternal purposes and sovereignty enables the heavenly transformation of our person and character as sons and daughters of God – his holy people, representing Christ and his eternal kingdom.

Consequently we are grounded solidly in God's unshakable realm while most others are devoid of such security. "On Christ the solid rock I stand..." (Hebrews 12v 28).

2. Becoming Holy people

Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;

1 Peter 1v22-23

The process of salvation and the quality of God's holiness perfected in us comes through the sincerity of our brotherly and sisterly love. Our sanctification happens as we carry out Christ's words (as the "living Word of God") in our relationships. Christ in us - hope of glory

Accordingly, our identity is not defined by the insecurity and inconsistency of the world we are a part, but rather by the eternal world which we are now invested in and permeated with. We are therefore to be focussed on the profoundly simple task of loving others liberally and serving others extravagantly as our new norm.

How do you see yourself fulfilling this "holy mission" – particularly when life isn't easy and helping others is inconvenient?

3. Proclaiming Christ's Excellencies

But you are a chosen race,
royal priesthood,
a holy nation,
a people for his
own possession,
that you may proclaim
the excellencies of
him who called you
out of darkness
into his marvelous
light. Once you
were not a people,
but now you are
God's people;
once you had not
received mercy,
but now you have
received mercy.

1Peter 2:9-10

In 1 Peter 2:9, 10, the mark of being a Jesus person is therefore, being virtuous, kind, and considerate of others, regardless of their treatment of you. This is a powerful witness and declaration of how good God is in an often adversarial and merciless world.

The more we are aware of the dark, desperate and godless humanity around us and at times within us, the more we need God's Spirit to help and empower us. As the Holy Spirit imprints Christ's identity upon us as a royal and holy people, the more our lives will express his excellencies, virtues, character and nature. This becomes a symphony of worship affecting every facet of our living. God's mercy towards us means we are compelled to be merciful, manifesting the excellency of God and his prevailing kingdom to all others.

Accordingly, Peter vividly outlines these excellencies in his second letter (1: 3-11) If they are abundant in our lives confirm our calling and election as Christ believers.

³His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to^[c] his own glory and excellence,^[d] ⁴by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. ⁵For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue (excellence),^[e] and virtue (excellence) with knowledge, ⁶and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. ⁸For if these qualities^[f] are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. ¹⁰Therefore, brothers (and sisters),^[g] be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. ¹¹For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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4. Empowered Submission

Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor, supreme or to governors as sent by him, to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.

1 Peter 2v 13-16

As belonging to God, we are unthreatened by authorities, whether political governmental or otherwise because we recognise God's overarching governance and lordship. Consequentially we can work wisely, obediently, diligently and faithfully within this world's temporal, compromised and inherently flawed frameworks. Our advantage is in essential submission to Christ, in the various contexts of government, workplace, marriage and family by trusting in God and representing him with confidence. The stark contrast of our good behaviour against bad community behaviour has the outcome of exposing those who choose to behave selfishly, abusively and immorally. "Coals of fire" means God and not you are acting in the consciences of the wayward.

Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

1 Peter 2v17

Our freedom, therefore, comes as we reveal Christ's servant heart and reconciling initiative rather than typical human reactions and responses to others. That is, we take on and demonstrate the very nature of Christ as God's Suffering Servant, loving our enemies and if required, choosing to let others gasbag with their opinions and unburden anger with their hissy fits! Because we choose the simplicity of submission in every sphere of life – in society and in the Church, we become a people marked by God's peace, love and joy!

As in Christ's (John 17) priestly prayer for us, Jesus prophesied the power of this mutual submission that God's unity and love among us would convince the world of his reality.

²⁰ “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.

5. Humble suffering as God’s way to exaltation with Christ

Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

1 Peter 5:6-8

Peter presents us here with the clearest godly direction of how we are to live in a world that is steeped in human pride, self-sufficiency, and self-assertion. A world arrogantly opposed to God’s ways will stand to give account and meet a tragic end, consumed by fire and not flood. Like Noah we are to work together in building God’s Ark of salvation. For us on Macleay Island and around the world Christ has chosen his Church to be the vessel of redemption and hope for a condemned world. Like Noah we humbly and meekly get on with the job of building up Christ’s Church his lifeboat, regardless. God’s gracious hand is his almighty hand, at work in us and for us. Because of this we choose humble submission to him and cast off all the anxieties life throws at us on Him because he cares for you!

- c. [2 Peter 1:3](#) Or *by*
- d. [2 Peter 1:3](#) Or *virtue*
- e. [2 Peter 1:5](#) Or *excellence*; twice in this verse
- f. [2 Peter 1:8](#) Greek *these things*; also verses 9, 10, 12
- g. [2 Peter 1:10](#) Or *brothers and sisters*. In New Testament usage, depending on the context, the plural Greek word *adelphoi* (translated “brothers”) may refer either to *brothers* or to *brothers and sisters*.