

Cornerstone Church

December 4, 2016

**Sermon Series: Practicing Our Readiness Drills for  
Christ's Return - Seeking God's Guidance from 1st and  
2nd Peter**

Today's Sermon: Purifying Our Souls for a Sincere Love  
for One Another

Today's Passage: 1 Peter 1:22-25

**[22] Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, [23] since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; [24] for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, [25] but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.**

Main Point: By responding in repentance to the gospel, we effectively cleansed our wicked souls and enabled ourselves with the ability to love others sacrificially. That love is to increase over time to create a tight-knit family that eases all persecution pain.

Review

**(1 Peter 1:20-21 ESV) He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.**

Our dirty souls needed cleansing

**Having purified** (perfect tense, active voice,) **your souls**

- It pays to remember our sordid past (or what our sordid self would have become had Jesus not intervened).
- We just don't dwell on our past since we have a new

identity and now our souls are clean. **(Isaiah 1:18 ESV) "Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.**

This was accomplished by believing the gospel.

**"by your obedience to the truth"**

Religion says: "If I obey, God will love me." The gospel says: "Because God loves me, I will obey."

At the moment of regeneration (right before conversion) we were endowed with supernatural abilities, one of which is an ability to love others. (Ezekiel 36:26-27; Jeremiah 31:33;

**for a sincere brotherly** (philadelphia) **love**

**Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes. (1 John 2:9-11 ESV)**

**We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. (1 John 3:14-15 ESV)**

Once saved however, it is necessary for us to grow further in our love for one another to a deeper level of love.

**love** (agape) **one another earnestly from a pure heart,**

- That love will look like Jesus' love for us,

**A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. (John 13:34 ESV)**

- And will be visibly demonstrated

**Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. (Romans 12:10 ESV)**

- And will be practical and thoughtful

**And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them. (Luke 6:31 ESV)**

**But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. (1 John 3:17-18 ESV)**

- And it won't harbor any ill-will, ever

**You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD. (Leviticus 19:18 ESV)**

- And it will open our homes to friends and strangers

**Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. (1 Peter 4:8-9 ESV)**

**Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. (Romans 12:13 ESV)**

**Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. (Hebrews 13:16 ESV)**

- And finally it will grow into the greatest act of love of all

**By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. (1 John 3:16 ESV)**

And just why is it we are so loving and sacrificial to others?

Answer: Because we have been **born again**

**since you have been born again,**

- And we have been born again by the power of God's eternal word.

**not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; [24] for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, [25] but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.**

- Everything mankind trusts in, whether it is family, government, money, possessions, ideologies (i.e. there is no hell), religions, are rotting away over time and will be seen to be a mirage, or in the case of people, . . . expertly coiffed, manicured, and made-up (by a skilled mortician no doubt) corpses.

## Application

There will come a day when families will have to double up and triple up on residences and share food just like we did in Acts 2. If we start practicing today we will consider it no loss then.