

# COUNTER CULTURE

Sermon-Based Study Guide  
Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church

1 Peter 1.22-2.3 | June 17, 2018

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## I. Introduction to this Study

This week we continue our series Counter Culture, exploring the call to follow Jesus even when it goes against the grain of our world.

## II. Connecting with One Another

Share an experience when you tasted a food and thought, "I'm never having that again!" or an experience when you tried something and thought, "Wow! That's really good!"

## III. Study the Text

- a. Read 1 Peter 1.22-2.3. What stands out to you? What questions do you have?
- b. Last week Curtis talked about sanctification which, for the original readers, was the idea of God not just taking them out of "Egypt," but getting the "Egypt" out of them. Sanctification is the process of growing in holiness, of being shaped more and more into the image of Christ. In what ways does Peter encourage that process to continue in verses 1.22 and 2.1?
- c. The "word of God" mentioned in 1.23 and 1.25 is not referencing the Bible. Remember, the Bible as we know it today did not yet exist! Rather, the "word of God" is the Spirit-empowered message about Jesus and what God has done through him for the sake of all people. How can hearing this "word" lead to a new birth (v.23)?
- d. 1.24-25a quotes from Isaiah 40.6-8. What contrast is made by Peter here? Grass and flowers surrounded 1<sup>st</sup> century readers/hearers of this letter. How might you write a different version for our context today, comparing the fleeting nature of physical life with the life that results from being "born again"?
- e. Read 2.1-3. How should believers react in light of the life-giving news that has been "preached" to them (1.25b)?
- f. Letters like 1 Peter were written to be distributed and read among the fledgling congregations established in Asia Minor. How could the actions and attitudes listed in 2.1, if left unchecked, impact the fellowship in those churches?
- g. Those who are "born again" need a proper diet. What should the believers in these communities be craving (2.2-3)? Why?

#### IV. Reflect

- a. 2.1 encourages further sanctification, growth in holiness. What has God prompted you to “rid yourself” of in your journey as a Christian? Is there anything God is prompting now?
- b. Sometimes the phrase “born again” can be applied as a litmus test. If we are “born again” we have arrived and all is good. How does this passage challenge that? What does it mean to “grow up” in our salvation?
- c. In 1.22 Peter encourages “sincere love” for fellow believers. What makes this difficult, at times? How can you overcome these challenges?
- d. In what ways have you “tasted that the Lord is good”? How would you describe your experience of God’s graciousness and love?

#### V. Pray

- a. Praise God for the “taste” he has given you that has drawn you into relationship with him...
- b. Confess the “stuff” (attitudes, habits, etc.) you may still be carrying that God is prompting you to surrender...
- c. Ask God to create a craving for “pure spiritual milk” that will help you grow as a follower of Jesus...
- d. Thank God for the church family of Good Shepherd and for believers everywhere...

Since there’s extra room and I have limited opportunities left to share cartoons, here’s an old one. I thought of this wordplay cartoon when we started this new series. It’s not quite *Counter Culture*, but...



Counter intelligence.