



# FORGED IN THE FURNACE

## Growing Up into Love (1 Peter 1:22-2:3) Pastor Tim Peck Forged in the Furnace (1 Peter) pt. 3

### THE BIG IDEA

One of the most important goals of our Christian life is to grow up into love. God brings us into his family to give us a community to love, God gives us the word to teach us to love, God commands us to shed our vices to free us to love, and God nourishes us with grace to help us grow in love.

### OPENING

- When you were a child, what did you believe were the traits of being a grownup? How did you know when you became an adult?
- What happens when spiritual practices like prayer and Bible study become an end in themselves rather than a means to a greater end?

### DIGGING DEEPER

- Some Bible scholars believe that Peter's letter was originally a sermon given by Peter at a baptism service.<sup>1</sup> There are several clues that allude to baptism in this week's passage. For example, the phrase "purifying yourselves" in 1:22 likely refers to the purification of baptism. And command phrase "rid yourselves" in 2:1 uses a verb for taking off outer clothing that was often used during baptism. Why do you think Peter points to our baptism here?
- The word Peter uses for love in 1 Peter 1:22 is the Greek word *philadelphia*. This particular word was originally only used to describe love for people you are related to by blood or marriage. Cultural anthropologists use the term "fictive kinship" to describe when a group you are not related to becomes your family.<sup>2</sup> Read Matthew 12:48-50. How does Jesus redefine family here?

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<sup>1</sup>F. L. Cross, *1 Peter, a Paschal Liturgy* (Oxford University Press, 1954).

<sup>2</sup>Craig Keener, "Family and Household," *Dictionary of New Testament Background* (InterVarsity Press, 2000), p. 254.

- What does Peter define as the word of God in v. 25? How is this related to the written word, the Bible?
- The word “rid yourself” in v. 1 of chapter 2 was often used for taking off clothing. How do we “take off” the vices listed here? What is our responsibility and what is God’s responsibility? How does Romans 6:8-14 help clarify how to do this?
- What is the link between craving pure spiritual milk and Peter’s quote from Psalm 34 in 1 Peter 2:3? According to Karen Jobes, *“He is saying that God in Christ alone both conceives and sustains the life of the new birth. They are to crave the Lord God for spiritual nourishment. They have tasted the goodness of the Lord in their conversion, but there is more to be had.”*<sup>3</sup>

## PUTTING IT TO WORK

- Which of the vices in v. 1 do you struggle with the most? How does it hold you back from loving people? What steps is God leading you to take this week to find freedom from that vice?
- What are some ways you can “taste” God’s grace this week? Share them with your group or list them in a journal.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

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<sup>3</sup>Karen Jobes, *1 Peter, Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books), p. 195.