

ALIENATED

THE GOSPEL IN A POST-CHRISTIAN WORLD



Scripture

^{1:22} 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.

^{2:1} So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. ² Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. (1 Peter 1:22-2:3 ESV)

Outline

Big Idea: Trust God is good to live different than the world

Point 1. Being born again changes our affections and goals (vv1:22-2:1)

Point 2. Being born again causes us to crave God's goodness (vv2-3)

Discussion Questions

Icebreaker: If you could describe your spiritual growth in one word, what would it be and why?

Point 1: Being born again changes our affections and goals

- What does it mean to "love one another from the heart" as mentioned in verse 1:22? How can we cultivate genuine love within our relationships?
- How does the image of being "born again" in verse 1:23 describe the transformation that occurs in a believer's life?
- In terms of time, energy, and money spent, which is more of a priority for you: perishable things or "forever" things? How can you verify (or rectify) that?

Point 2: Being born again causes us to crave God's goodness

- What does it mean to have a "newborn" longing/craving for spiritual milk in verse 2:2?
- How does this craving reflect the reality of our spiritual growth?
- What practical steps can we take to nurture our spiritual appetite and desire for God's Word?
- How does trusting God challenge our worldview and our desire to conform to the world?

Application Questions

- Peter assumes that his readers have purified their souls by their "obedience to the truth." What is one thing from this passage that you need to obey this week?
- How does our understanding of God's goodness impact our view of suffering and trials in life?
- What role does the church play in helping us live a life that reflects God's goodness?

Your Prayer

Write out a three-sentence prayer based off this passage.