

Uniquely Exiled

1 Peter 1:13-25

True Salvation produces Uniqueness (v 13-16)

v 13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

- First of all, our uniqueness stems from the saving work of Jesus as mentioned above. It is only by His grace that we are saved
- Secondly, there will be bi-products. There are 3 verbs used in v 13. They all seem to be imperatives, but only one is a command: “rest” our hope.
- “Gird” (tightening up the loose ends of your mind) and “be sober” (not being controlled or distracted by anything; clarity of mind, discipline of heart) are active participles.
- *How is this uniqueness or holiness manifested in verses 14-16?*
 1. By being obedient - referring to submission. As children, we should want to submit to our father.
 2. By not conforming ourselves to the past - (the negative aspect) not patterning, molding, or fashioning ourselves after those things that controlled us in the past when we were ignorant.
 3. By living up to our calling - (the positive aspect) Holy means to be set a part. And this is a calling. It’s not a suggestion. God has separated us out to be this way (2 Tim 1:9)

True Uniqueness is centered around Reverence towards God (17-21)

1. We revere God’s consistency (v 17). He is fair. He is the ultimate judge and He is watching to see if our life matches up with His qualifications (i.e. calling us to be holy).
2. We revere the precious sacrifice of Christ (v 18-19). We were bought back not by anything monetary or corruptible (perishing, temporary).
 - Christ gave Himself despite our former lusts (v 14), our ignorance (v 14), our futile existences (v 18), and our worthless religious traditions (v 18).
3. We revere the validity of God’s eternal plan (v 20-21). This plan, long before the world was created, had been meticulously thought out by the trinity.
 - The elements of God’s plan here are His predetermination, His incarnation, His resurrection, His glory, and the subsequent faith and hope that we as believers have as a result.
 - This plan was manifested as Jesus humbled Himself to the point of death, proving to be God by raising up, and receiving eternal glory after His ascension.

True Uniqueness stems from the work of God through His Word (22-25)

- (v 22) Purified souls is referring to our salvation. Obviously we are not perfect but we are going through the process.
- This only happens from a truly changed life. Peter is talking about obedience (submission), sincerity (undisguised), love (sacrificial giving), and purity (free from corruption).
- It is impossible to love another genuinely and fervently (implies muscles being stretched to their furthest limit; intensely; all out) without the Spirit.
- (v 23) New birth has come from the revealing of the truth by God’s Word.
- (v 24-25a) As corruption and the material fades, the incorrupt and immaterial do not.
- Our uniqueness is thus preserved because of the Holy Spirit’s working and the promise of God’s Word.
- (v 25b) The gospel has to be the focus of our lives. Our change is only possible through that wonderful message.