

## Summary of 1 Peter 1-3

Peter opens his letter by grounding believers in a living hope made possible through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This hope secures an imperishable inheritance that cannot be destroyed, even as believers experience trials, grief, and suffering in the present. These hardships are not meaningless; they refine faith and prove its genuineness, resulting in praise and glory when Christ is revealed. Because of this hope, Peter issues a strong call to holiness—believers are to be set apart in how they think, live, and respond to the world. Since they have been redeemed by the precious blood of Christ, they are called to live obedient, reverent lives marked by sincere love for one another.

In chapter 2, Peter presents Christ as the living Cornerstone, rejected by humanity but chosen by God, upon whom believers are being built into a spiritual house. Through Christ, the church is identified as a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, called to declare God's praises to the world. This identity shapes conduct—believers are urged to abstain from sinful desires and live honorably among unbelievers. Peter also emphasizes the call to suffer well, particularly when suffering unjustly, pointing to Christ's own example of submission and endurance. Following Jesus means trusting God even when obedience leads to hardship.

Chapter 3 begins with instructions for husbands and wives, emphasizing mutual honor, humility, and godly conduct as a witness to others. Peter then broadens the focus to the entire community, calling believers to unity, compassion, and blessing—even in the face of opposition. Suffering for doing good is presented as honorable and Christlike, not something to fear. The chapter concludes by pointing to Christ's victory through suffering and the significance of baptism as an appeal to God for a clear conscience. Baptism symbolizes identification with Christ's death and resurrection and underscores a life committed to faithful obedience amid suffering.

## Reflection Questions

1. Peter grounds believers in a living hope that is secured by Christ, not by circumstances. How does this hope reshape the way you interpret suffering, grief, or hardship in your life right now?
2. Peter says trials refine faith rather than destroy it. What current challenge might God be using to strengthen your faith rather than simply test your endurance?
3. The call to be holy in 1 Peter 1 is rooted in God's character, not moral superiority. What does holiness look like in your everyday decisions, attitudes, and relationships?

4. Peter describes believers as a chosen people, a royal priesthood, and a holy nation. How should this identity shape the way you engage with culture, authority, and those who do not share your faith?
5. Peter urges believers to abstain from sinful desires that wage war against the soul. What desires or habits most threaten to quietly undermine your holiness?
6. Peter calls believers to submit even when obedience leads to unjust suffering. What does godly submission look like when it feels costly or unfair?
7. Peter presents Christ as the model for suffering well. How does Jesus' response to suffering challenge the way you normally respond when wronged or misunderstood?
8. In 1 Peter 3, Peter emphasizes humility and honor in marriage and relationships. How does mutual submission reflect the gospel to those watching your life? How might you do this better?
9. Baptism is described as an appeal to God for a clear conscience. How does your baptism—or the commitment it represents—shape the way you pursue holiness and faithfulness today?