

Canceled
A Roadmap for Living In Exile
1 Peter 1:13-21
Mindset

Introduction: There is a phrase I've heard most of my life that I have yet to ever see disproven. "The body always follows the brain." That is, your mind leads you to where you are going every time. It's probably why more and more is being written and discussed concerning the topic of "mindset." Mindset is a broad term that relates to a person's outlook, values, attitude, disposition, purpose, priorities and focus.

It's a huge deal for any coach. For instance, if you have a team of highly talented athletes who are full of knowledge and skill, but have the wrong mindset, short of blind luck, the outcome will be failure every time. Its why you hear coaches say, "get your minds right!" It's the alert to everybody that they don't have their outlook, values, attitude, disposition, purpose, priorities and/or focus in the place that gives them a chance to win!

Therefore, as important as mindset is to wining, it's should be to no surprise then that as Peter moves forward in his letter, we are going to see a lot of things that have to do with equipping the mindset of the believers in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia to live the life of Christ in the midst of all the various levels and types of trials that are threatening to take it away from them. They are going through all kinds of trials and even dealing with steadily growing persecution. And here's the deal, they aren't trying to win a game, they are in a fight to live and enjoy the life of Christ! It's not a physical fight, nor is it even a fight with those who are persecuting them, but a spiritual battle and the outcome is either an abundant life in Christ no matter life's circumstances, or anything but an abundant life no matter the circumstances. Peter writes,

"Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded" (1:13) ...

"prepared your minds for action This idiom, which is often rendered as "gird up the loins of your mind," refers to the ancient practice of men tucking their long robes into their belt when they needed to move quickly (see Jer 1:17; Job 38:3)."¹

"be sober." The Greek word means, "to be calm and collected in spirit, to be temperate, dispassionate, circumspect." It speaks of the proper exercise of the mind, that state of mind in which the individual is self-controlled, and is able to see things without the distortion caused by worry, fear, and their related attitudes."²

¹ Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). [Faithlife Study Bible](#) (1 Pe 1:13). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

² Wuest, K. S. (1997). [Wuest's word studies from the Greek New Testament: for the English reader](#) (Vol. 11, pp. 34–35). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

“**keep sober in spirit**” This is a PRESENT ACTIVE PARTICIPLE in a series of IMPERATIVES and PARTICIPLES used with IMPERATIVAL force. This is not a call to sobriety, but a metaphor for mental alertness and level headedness (cf. 1 Thess. 5:6, 7).”³

It’s a call to get our mindset right to live life in Christ no matter what comes our way. It’s a call to get our emotions and thoughts focused on the reality we are entering, that is, to get our emotional and mental energy clear of distractions, fully engaged and alert, fully responsive, and ready to properly process and respond to things with the objectivity and clarity of the Gospel! It’s a call to remove any thought or emotion that could get in our way of winning, and as such fully focus on the task at hand – living the abundant life that is only found in Christ no matter what circumstance we are in! It’s a call to constantly be ready for the battle with sin and Satan because its already started and it won’t end until Jesus comes back!

But, as with any good coach, Peter doesn’t just tell us to get our minds right; he tells us how and on what! The rest of verse 13 all the way to the end of verse 21 gives us three keys to daily prepare ourselves to win the battle to live His life; three keys to get our minds right!

Proposition: 1 Peter 1:13-21 gives us three keys to getting our minds right!

The 1st key to getting our mind right is to

(1) Get your hope right. Long for what He alone will bring you! (1:13)

- A. 13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.**
- B. Whether you realize it or not, your HOPE in life is the real GOAL of your life. You can write down all the high-level concepts and ideas you want for goals, but when you peel back the onion, and get to the core of your heart, whatever it is that you truly HOPE for, that is, what you truly long for; that’s the goal that’s actually driving everything in your life. WHAT YOU HOPE FOR IS THE GOAL that every goal will be defined by and serve.
- C. For instance, even if you have a sincere goal of a healthy marriage and family life, if the inward hope of your life is really to be financially successful, then the goal of your marriage and family will always be shaped to serve your ultimate hope of financial success. Your family goals will become a part of the process of your hope which is financial success.

³ Uteley, R. J. D. (2000). *The Gospel according to Peter: Mark and I & II Peter* (Vol. Volume 2, p. 221). Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International.

- D. The fact of the matter is that we all have a singular hope or goal in life that defines and subjugates all our other goals. It's not that we can't have other goals nor that we aren't trying to achieve them, it's just that those goals exist in the context of the authority of our ultimate hope.
- E. Therefore, Peter says, if you want to live the eternal life that is His life, then you first need to be honest about what you truly long for in life and as such make sure it's, **“fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”**
- F. What is that grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ, that is, what is the GIFT (Greek word “charis”) that we should have all our hope in? Now, it's important to note that Peter doesn't point us to a generic hope of being faithful to the Lord, but instead something very specific. He says to set your, **“hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”**
- G. Did you notice that this hope is not something we need to wonder if it's coming? Peter writes **“THAT WILL BE brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”**
- H. The difference between a goal that has a chance and a goal that is guaranteed, is the experience of the anticipation. One is filled with anxiety and doubt wondering if it will even can be achieved; while the other is filled with confidence and wonder because they KNOW it's going to be experienced!
- I. Peter says you and I have a hope that is fixed in the heavens, that is certain, that is guaranteed; and as such if we will let that be our goal in life, the root motive of our life; the ultimate motive that defines all others, then the experience that is going to define all others is the confidence, joy, gratefulness, and excitement of having not the anxiety of a goal we don't know we can attain, or a hope we don't know if it will be fulfilled, but rather, a life of confident anticipation that what we long and stive for is coming!
- J. But what's coming? The following are two passages in the Bible that clarify what this “grace” or “gift” is that we are going to receive at Christ's return (“the revelation of Jesus Christ”) and if you if can't see the hope in these then you are indeed blind to life:
1. **51 Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. 53 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. 54 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death**

is swallowed up in victory." 55 "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" (1 Corinthians 15:51-55)

2. **3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." 5 And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." (Revelation 21:3-5)**

K. So, putting this together, Peter is saying don't be defined or governed by a hope for a job, relationship, financial expectation, career achievements or even the approval of family, friends or society; none of which may ever happen for these exiled believers in Asia Minor, but rather let your hope be in the guaranteed gift or grace you have coming when Christ returns! Live your life running towards what He alone can and will bring you! Let what He alone is providing you be the goal or hope that subjugates and puts into context every other hope or goal you cling to and strive for in your life!

L. Get your mind right by first getting your hope right!

The 2nd key to getting our minds right is to ...

(2) **Refuse to be conformed to sin. Let the standard of His holiness be what you expect of yourself. (1:14-16)**

A. Verse 14 builds off the previous theme but it's setting us up to transition into something specific. Peter writes,

B. 14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance,

1. First notice he calls the believers in Asia Minor, "obedient children." This signifies two massively important characteristics about their identity:

a. They are now children of God. The Bible is very clear we were not that until Christ saved us!

b. Second, and more specifically, they are obedient children of God. This is who you are saved to be! I'm going to point this out more in a minute, but it's very important that we understand our identity as those who are saved are not simply that we have been given heaven as our future and God as our Dad, but it also includes the fact that the salvation that accomplished all this was a salvation that freed us from that left us

slaves to sin and thus slaves to death. Being saved literally means we now have the ability to obey God, which is to literally experience life!

c. I shared this passage of Scripture a few weeks ago but it bears repeating,

d. 17 But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, 18 and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ... 20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. 22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:17-18, 20-23)

2. So, he says, **“14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance.”**

3. The word for “passion” here is a general Greek word that refers to the sense of longing, desire or craving. Peter is certainly not saying don’t be passionate, what he’s saying is, as those whose very identity is OBEIENT CHILDREN to GOD, don’t be conformed (defined by or subjugated) to the passions you had when you were ignorant of God, that is, before you were exposed to the Gospel and saved into a relationship with Him! AS one belonging to God don’t be a slave to sin and death!

Note: “The words “as obedient children” are literally in the Greek, “as children of obedience.” The motive principal of the child of God should be obedience, the latter being related to him as a parent is to a child. As children inherit the nature of their parents, so a child of God is made a partaker of the divine nature, which nature always impels to the act of obedience. It is natural for a child of God to obey Him. In our characters as obedient children of God, we are exhorted not to fashion ourselves with respect to our former lusts. The word “fashion” in the Greek text refers to the act of assuming an outward appearance patterned after some certain thing, an appearance or expression which does not come from and is not representative of one’s inmost and true nature. ... It is the believer masquerading in the costume of the world. The word “lusts” is literally “passionate desires,” here, as the context indicates, evil desires. The word “lust,” when the a.v. was translated, referred to any craving or strong desire,

good or bad, as the context indicated. Today, its meaning is confined almost entirely to that of an immoral desire.”⁴

4. He then clarifies what we should do,

C. 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

1. People who love religion and legalism misinterpret and misapply these two verses perhaps more than any other two verses in the Bible! The error occurs from a fundamental misunderstanding of the Mosaic Covenant. When a person assumes that the Mosaic Covenant (aka the Mosaic Law) is the eternal law of God for all time and all mankind, then they find themselves in a logically and theologically indefensibly inconsistent position of constantly regulating life to meet an intentionally unachievable standard that God gave the Jewish people to prepare them, not us, for the Messiah.
2. I'm not suggesting the Mosaic Law has no place in our faith. I'm not suggesting that at all; however, its place is not as our standard of living. The Mosaic Law (AKA the Old Testament Law) is there to teach us about God's holiness not in the details of the Law, but in the expectation He gave them to adhere to it, His response to breaking it, and His salvation both from the consequences of it and the burden of being under it!
3. Let me explain by first reminding you of what Peter said is Holy – God! Peter quoted Leviticus 11:44 when he wrote, "**16 since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."**" Now think about this for a minute. Peter, somebody who struggled with the idea of the Mosaic Law being fulfilled and replaced by the New Covenant in Christ, could have said You shall be Holy as the Law is Holy; but he didn't, he quoted the Law itself that said GOD is Holy!
4. But what does Holy even mean? Its most basic definition means to be separated. However, its Biblical context is more specific. The Theological Dictionary of the New Testament puts it this way,
5. **"On an OT basis, holiness is here seen to be God's innermost nature (Rev. 4:8). It embraces omnipotence, eternity, and glory, and evokes awe."**⁵
6. The Psalmist put it this way,

⁴ Wuest, K. S. (1997). *Wuest's word studies from the Greek New Testament: for the English reader* (Vol. 11, pp. 36–37). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

⁵ Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, Abridged in One Volume* (p. 16). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.

7. **“1 The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake! 2 The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples. 3 Let them praise your great and awesome name! Holy is he! 4 The King in his might loves justice. You have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob. 5 Exalt the LORD our God; worship at his footstool! Holy is he!” (Psalm 99:1-5)**
 8. So, God is not simply separate or different than mankind, but He is eternally more than mankind in every way; that is, God is eternally more powerful, righteous, worthy, virtuous, and loving than mankind and thus HE is HOLY! Every characteristic of God is eternally better than anything or anybody, and thus He alone is the pinnacle and standard of HOLINESS!
 9. Therefore, putting this together with what Peter is writing here, Peter says, don't be “conformed,” to the passions you had when you were ignorant of God's HOLINESS, but rather let your life and your actions match up with the characteristics of the person of God!
 10. OK ... that's a TALL STANDARD!!!! What could that possibly look like in the details of our life, that is, in the actual day to day conduct of our life. Well, I'll say this first, it has nothing to do with what you eat or drink, it has nothing to do with the style of your clothing or style of your music. But, beyond that, I'm not going to go down that road any further today because Peter is going to give some very specific examples as we go through the rest of his letter and as such we will discuss them when we get to them.
 11. At this point however, Peter's very clearly not pointing to the specifics, but rather to the ultimate quality those specifics need to have – God's Holiness. Let your conduct reflect the same quality of Holiness that God is! Don't be conformed to sin, but be determined to live in a way that your conduct evokes the same awe and respect given to God because it demonstrates the depth of character, morality, trustworthiness and frankly praiseworthiness of God Himself!
- D. Therefore, as you get your game face on to engage the fight to live the life of Christ, you need to constantly make sure you,
1. **Get your hope right. Long for what He alone will bring you!**
 2. **Don't be conformed to sin. Let the standard of His holiness be what you expect of yourself.**

The leads us to the 3rd key for getting your mind right ...

(3) **Respect what only God can give. Let the weightiness of your salvation keep you grounded and motivated. (1:17-21)**

A. He begins by once again orienting us back to our family relationship with God but clearly Peter is setting us up for something because he makes it a conditional sentence right out the gate. Peter writes,

B. 17 And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds,

1. **"If you call on him as Father"** takes us back again to verse 14 and being His OBDIENT CHILDREN. The theme of the family relationship we have been saved into is consistent throughout this passage. But here is saying, if you have the right to call the Holy God your Father, whom we were justly eternally separated from because of our sin, then you also need to understand one other element of who it is you are calling on as Father. Peter says, if you have the right to call on the one and only God as Father then you also need to know He is one **"who judges impartially according to each one's deeds,"**
2. OK, so this just got much bigger. He's not just your dad, but he is also the one who judges IMPARTIALLY according to each one's deeds. Why is this such a big conditional statement? Well,
3. **The Greek word translated "impartial," means "'does not receive face." That is, God does not receive anybody's face. He is impartial. Outward appearance, wealth, culture, social position, family background, education, beauty, intellect, all things that more or less sway the opinions of man, do not count with God when it comes to appraising a person's character or worthiness."**⁶
4. In other words, God's judgement can't be swayed or manipulated by your religious performance! It doesn't matter how much good you do or how big a performance you put on; God judges our conduct and actions for what they are! He doesn't look at your actions and say well its ok for you to do something because you said nice things to me this morning, but the other guy can't because he was rude to me!
5. As a result of this characteristic of God, Peter writes,

C. 17 And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile,

⁶ Wuest, K. S. (1997). [*Wuest's word studies from the Greek New Testament: for the English reader*](#) (Vol. 11, pp. 40-42). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

1. The word fear means respect, honor and reverence!
2. Therefore, while you live as exiles in a world under the curse of sin and the reign of Satan, you need to be sure to not live with a fear of God that manifest itself as constant honor, reverence and respect for Him; but it's not for the reasons you might think!
3. Listen to what Peter says next!

D. 18 knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. 20 He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you 21 who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

1. So, make sure your conduct is a product of living in honor, reverence and fear of God that comes from the knowledge of the fact HE intentionally gave you something massively consequential to Him and indescribably awesome for you!
2. And did you catch the contrast? Our earthly fathers left all of us stuck in the futile religious attempts to overcome sin. They were futile because we can't shake off being sinners because we were literally conceived under and into the curse of being sinners! Our kids are conceived into the same predicament!
3. But God did what we couldn't do. God bought us out of the curse with the only thing that could free us from this curse. He didn't, nor could He do it with money, whose value can go up and down or even be totally destroyed; but rather with the most valuable, honored and exquisite currency ever offered – the blood of Christ! This was the currency that had the power to break the curse and buy us out of slavery! It's not just a reflection of the power of the curse God placed mankind under, but also the love of God to free us from it!
4. His blood, the blood of the perfect eternal son of God who took upon Himself flesh and as such became the perfect man, was shed for us. There was no sin in Him, meaning, there was nothing that deserved God's wrath. The Father who judges with no impartiality couldn't declare Him guilty of anything, not simply because Jesus is His Son, but judicially because Jesus literally had no sin! But this is why His blood is sufficient. His sacrifice was the only sacrifice that could pay the price and He did it! God the Father did not offer the gold nor the time He could simply create more of, but rather the

uncreated, and only eternal Son that the Christ has always been! The writer of Hebrews put it this way,

5. **11 But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) 12 he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. 15 Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. (Hebrews 9:11-15)**
6. There is no sacrifice greater, no price higher and He did it on purpose!! Verse 20 tells us Christ was God's plan all along! God "foreknew" this, that is, God decided ahead of time He was going to send His Son to be the sacrificially lamb to rescues us!
7. The point being, we don't have some cheap, worthless insignificant relationship, but rather something weighty, something glorious, something precious, something more valuable than anything else in the world, something that is the opposite of futile and worthless! What we have is an eternal relationship with God that was made possible by the sacrificial death the perfect and eternal Jesus Christ! So get your mind right and live your life out of **Respect for what only God can give!**

CHALLENGE: What's your mindset and where is taking you?

Your mindset is obvious. You don't have to think hard to figure it out. The evidence is everything your life, your practices, your responses to trials and failures as well your response to successes say it is! Most of our lives it's obviously evident to everybody around us but somehow we can lie to ourselves or hide ourselves from it!

I hear people blame God for the total negative stressed out state of living they have found themselves in. I understand how you get there, I get there to; but it doesn't change the fact that you are there because you ain't got your mind right! You've exchanged the truth in Christ for the lies of Satan. You've exchanged the hope of Christ for the lostness of this world! But you can't change your mindset until your honest about. So let's just make it easy.

1. **What's your hope in?** - "Get your hope right. Long for what He alone will bring you!"

2. **What's your conduct look like?** – “Don't be conformed to sin. Let the standard of His holiness be what you expect of yourself.”
3. **What or who are you living in respect, fear and in honor of?** - Respect what only God can give. Let the weightiness of your salvation keep you grounded and motivated.