

Theme: As God's chosen people, we are called to be nourished spiritually and to love our fellow believers fervently.

I. Intro – Nature and Nurture

- A. Big arguments over nature vs. nurture
- B. Born vs. developed
- C. Answer is often both!
- D. Peter says something similar here
- E. Natural results of regeneration must be nurtured
- F. We are called to be who we are!

II. The Call To A Life of Love

- A. The basis - our conversion
 - 1. Purified by obeying truth (v22)
 - a. Have purified - perfect participle - past
 - b. Pointer back to 1:2 - obedience
 - c. Born again - v23
 - 2. Two aspects to conversion (v22-23)
 - a. God's Word - supernatural Seed
 - b. Our response - obeying the truth
- B. The result - sincere brotherly love (v22)
 - 1. Talking about love for believers
 - 2. Now God's children - and brothers and sisters!

- 3. Supernatural love for other Christians
- 4. Tony Marsh on Albanian meeting - brothers!
- C. The command - love fervently from heart
 - 1. Still commanded to love - must grow
 - 2. Love will be tested - especially in trials!!
 - 3. Love must be fervent - not lukewarm
 - 4. Love must be from heart - not mouth, superficial
- D. The danger - traits that undermine love
 - 1. Rid ourselves - destructive traits (2:1)
 - 2. All of these undermine love - and must be shunned
 - 3. An open community marked by pure love
- E. The need for love in our time of sojourn
 - 1. Remember the context - dispersed sojourners
 - 2. This can be very discouraging
 - 3. We need our brothers and sisters - and they need us!

III. The Call To Spiritual Nourishment

- A. The basis - our regeneration (2:2)
 - 1. Like newborn babies - tautological reminder
 - 2. Picks up regeneration from 1:23
 - 3. Metaphor - infants naturally hungry - us too

4. My hunger for Word when first converted

B. The call - crave pure spiritual milk

1. Crave - strong desire (Ps 42:1; 84:2; 119:31)

2. We must develop and grow this desire

3. We need nourishment - like infant needs **milk**

4. We need **pure** milk - not deceitful, watered, impure

5. We need **spiritual** milk - λογικὸν - rational, spiritual

a. Often used for rational, careful thought

b. Also used of metaphorical, spiritual

c. Related to logos - Word - back in 1:23

6. Preeminent spiritual milk - Word

a. Word means of regeneration (1:23)

b. Word is living and enduring (1:23)

c. People temporary - Word eternal (1:24-25)

d. Isaiah word to Israel, exiles - how applicable!

e. This is Word preached as Good News to you!

f. Exiles experiencing persecution - but our God reigns!!

C. The experience - taste the Lord is good! (2:3)

1. Through Word & other means taste God's goodness

2. Word can mean 'kind' - He is good/kind to us!

3. Life is hard - but God is good!!!

IV. Applying the Word

A. Do we love our fellow Christians fervently?

1. Do we see we need each other?

2. Are we building real, honest, deep relationships?

3. How often do we see each other outside of Sunday?

4. Are you involved in a small group?

B. Do we crave for spiritual nourishment?

1. Do we long to be fed spiritually?

2. Do we see we can cultivate this desire?

3. Do we taste God's goodness? Or just world's junk food?

4. Not legalism - we need to feed on means of grace

C. Communion - Taste and see Lord is good!

1. In this world there are troubles!

2. Troubles pass - God's good kindness does not!

3. Come taste and see!

Spiritual Nourishment for A Life of Brotherly Love

1 Peter 1:22-2:3

Isaiah 40:6-11

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Communion

Romans 15:5-6

who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for **obedience** to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

1 Peter 1:2

As the deer **pants** for streams of water, so my soul **pants** for you, O God.

Psalm 42:1

My soul **yearns**, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

Psalm 84:2

I open my mouth and pant, **longing** for your commands.

Psalm 119:131

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 15:5-6