

Maintaining a Healthy Appetite

1 Peter 2:1–3 (NKJV)

1 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, 2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

Has any generation had a more health conscience attitude than the one in which we live today.

They have diets after diets. We have all this talk about food deserts, well Stark County is one, but I have yet to see people starving as they do in other countries. Our problem is not that we have too little food but too much.

Now I am not an example to be followed. If someone followed me around and saw what I ate they would have me committed to a health institution.

We have a natural desire for food. That is why they try to make it taste good.

But in the same way that we have a natural desire for food, new born babies desire milk.

Peter uses this to bring up the idea that Christians have a desire for the pure milk of the word, that is the Word of God.

But before he brings that up he talks about the things that do not make us healthy.

Often people look at God's commands and think that God is just trying to take the fun out of life.

I am sure that you are aware that one of the biggest problems that plague humanity is a lack of healthy water.

Many people are forced of necessity to drink polluted water.

Now if you told the not to drink water from a contaminated stream you would be doing it for their own good.

If you worked with a mission project and brought them a well of clean water but the people still went to their polluted, that would be a problem.

Israel in the Old Testament had just such a problem.

Jeremiah 2:13 (NKJV)

13 "For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, And hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water.

What am I trying to say and not very good is that the things that Peter tells the to lay aside are the things that harm them and make the spiritually sick.

All of God's commands are for our good.

Let us look at this passage.

I. Lay aside these-

1. Striving to eliminate sins is prerequisite to sustaining the desire for God's Word. Clinging to sins drives one in the opposite direction from the truth that exposes and confronts sin and demands righteousness. *John F. MacArthur Jr., 1 Peter, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2004), 97.*
2. Hebrews 12:1 (NKJV)
 - a. 1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
3. Why did Peter begin with the call to put away evil attitudes and actions? Probably because such things destroy love, and responsibility to love was the main idea in vv. 22–25. What Peter referred to, as in vv. 22–25, is the need for love among fellow Christians. *Thomas R. Schreiner, 1, 2 Peter, Jude, vol. 37, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2003), 98.*

B. All Malice

1. Ill-will, desire to injure.
2. Wickedness, depravity.
3. Wickedness that is not ashamed to break laws. *James Strong, Enhanced Strong's Lexicon (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995).*
4. Malice (which in English has the idea of desiring to harm someone else) is an all-inclusive word (kakia) for sin referring to general wickedness and baseness. *John F. MacArthur Jr., 1 Peter, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2004), 97.*
5. We must understand that this is what by nature we have without Jesus.
6. There is a whole segment of our population that are guided by malice toward those they disagree with.
7. But it should never be found in the Christian's character.
8. 1 Corinthians 14:20 (NKJV)
 - a. 20 Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature.
9. Ephesians 4:31 (NKJV)
 - a. 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be

put away from you, with all malice.

10. Colossians 3:8 (NKJV)

- a. 8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.

11. Titus 3:3 (NKJV)

- a. 3 For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.

C. All Deceit

1. Primarily “a bait, snare”; hence, “craft, deceit, guile,” *W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger, and William White Jr., Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (Nashville, TN: T. Nelson, 1996), 151.*

2. Mark 7:22–23 (NKJV)

- a. 22 thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. 23 All these evil things come from within and defile a man.”

3. Luke used the same term in Acts 13:10 when citing Paul’s rebuke of Elymas the magician for being “full of all deceit and fraud” *John F. MacArthur Jr., 1 Peter, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2004), 98.*

D. Hypocrisy

1. The word describes any behavior that is not genuine or consistent with what one really believes or says he believes (Matt. 23:28; Mark 12:15; Luke 12:1; Rom. 12:9; Gal. 2:13; 1 Tim. 4:2; James 3:17). *John F. MacArthur Jr., 1 Peter, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2004), 98.*

E. Envy

1. “envy,” is the feeling of displeasure produced by witnessing or hearing of the advantage or prosperity of others; this evil sense always attaches to this word, Matt. 27:18; Mark 15:10; Rom. 1:29; Gal. 5:21; Phil. 1:15; 1 Tim. 6:4; Titus 3:3 *W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger, and William White Jr., Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (Nashville, TN: T. Nelson, 1996), 204.*

2. Envy can be seen from 3 years old to 103 year old people.

3. Is it not a dissatisfaction with God for not blessing us as He has done for them.

4. Does it not spring from pride because we think we deserve it.

F. All Evil Speaking

1. Lastly, Peter mentions all slander (katalalias), an onomatopoeic word designed to sound like the whispers and tattles reported behind someone's back in gossip and backbiting (2 Cor. 12:20). It referred essentially to defamation of character (cf. 2:12; 3:16; James 4:11). *John F. MacArthur Jr., 1 Peter, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2004), 98.*

a. ONOMATOPOEIC refers to the use of words or series of words that cause one to think of the sounds that they refer to; for example, "swishing," "bang!" or the "buzzing" of bees. *Philip A. Noss and Kenneth J. Thomas, A Handbook on Ezra and Nehemiah, ed. Paul Clarke et al., United Bible Societies' Handbooks (New York: United Bible Societies, 2005), 594.*

II. Do what babies do-

A. Believers are often compared to the young.

1. 2 Timothy 3:15 (NKJV)

a. 15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

2. Mark 10:15 (NKJV)

a. 15 Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."

B. Desire the pure milk of the word

1. Is there anything more natural than when a newborn baby desires his first milk.

a. I remember a number of years ago, leading a person to faith in Jesus who had hardly a month to live.

b. I told them to read the gospel of John and they did, that day.

c. I didn't need to go back a beg and plead for them to start in the word.

d. Some might say but they had so short a time, but that did not make a difference.

2. I have heard of persecuted believers in the third world giving a months wages for a portion of the New Testament.

3. In those countries, many believers commit whole books to memory so they cannot be taken away.
 4. Job 23:12 (NKJV)
 - a. 12 I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth More than my necessary food.
 5. Psalm 119:165 (NKJV)
 - a. 165 Great peace have those who love Your law, And nothing causes them to stumble.
 6. Jeremiah 15:16 (NKJV)
 - a. 16 Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; For I am called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts.
- C. That you may grow thereby
1. Proverbs 4:18 (NKJV)
 - a. 18 But the path of the just is like the shining sun, That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.
 2. Acts 20:32 (NKJV)
 - a. 32 “So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.
 3. Ephesians 4:15 (NKJV)
 - a. 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—
 4. Colossians 1:10 (NKJV)
 - a. 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;
 5. 1 Thessalonians 2:13 (NKJV)
 - a. 13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.
 6. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV)
 - a. 16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable

for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

III. If indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

A. What product commercial tells you that you cannot eat just one?

1. With many people it is more than just potato chips that they cannot eat just one.
2. What about M&Ms.

B. But Peter's idea is that if you have tasted of the grace of God there is nothing that can take away the desire for more.

1. As the deer pants for the water brooks, the Psalmist says, so my soul longs for you O Lord.
2. If you have never tasted you do not have that desire.

C. Isaiah 55:1 (NKJV)

1. 1 "Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price.