

Cravings

1 Peter 2:1-3

I. Scripture reading: 1 Peter 1:1 – 2:3

II. Cravings: God and satisfying and to get rid of those things that we once craved but that now prove to be empty and deadly. Let's take a look at these five specific evils that we are commanded to abandon, but first we'll see what Peter's command means..

III. "Rid Yourselves of..." This command word can be translated in several ways (e.g. "lay aside", "set aside", "put away", "throw off"), but the main meaning is the same in all of them: stop doing these things and root them out at the source. There is no place in the disciple's life nor in the life of the churches of Jesus for any of these wicked things. Let's take a look at them one by one...

IV. Malice [James 1:21; 1 Peter 2:16]: The word used here really means badness, wickedness or evil in general. Often times translators use this word "malice" to communicate one part of the meaning, but Peter is beginning his list here by calling us to get rid of all the unworthy and rebellious attitudes, tendencies and practices in our lives. Malice deals with the harsh and bitter stance toward others that seeks their harm. This is the antithesis of love, and love is the great law of God's kingdom and the great proof of true righteousness.

V. Deceit [Mark 7:20-23; 1 Peter 3:10; 1 Peter 2:22]

The idea here is that of trickery, guile, stealth, or treachery. We are those who live in the light, who walk according to the truth, and who highly value integrity. We are followers of Jesus the Christ who is the Truth. Lies and deceit belong to the way of the "father of lies" (John 8:44), and we are not *his* children! Peter himself reminded the saints that there was no deceit in our Master's mouth. Why should we allow deceit to remain in us?

VI. Hypocrisy [Matthew 23:27-28] Jesus despised hypocrisy! Read Matthew 23 and you'll get a pretty good glimpse at the levels of intolerance our Master had for hypocrisy. The wearing of masks, pretending and putting on show of righteousness is not only dangerous for the one doing it, but also for all those who believe their act. Hypocrisy is deceit of a most insidious kind because it is a lie that both deceived and deceiver believe.

VII. Envy [Galatians 5:21] Envy is the enemy of gratitude and contentment. What's worse, envy pits people against people as those who have not resent those who have, and those who have hope to arouse envy in those who have not. Our society exalts envy so that producers can sell more products of extravagance and luxury to vain and self-centered consumers. It would be one thing if it were exclusive to the world, but this sinful attitude has infiltrated the churches of Jesus! We are the chosen strangers in this world; we are not meant to follow its ways and embrace its twisted values. Throw it away!

VIII. Slander [James 4:11] Slander is another enemy of love because "love does no harm to its neighbor" (Romans 13:10), but slander is intent on harming its neighbor with words. The Word of God gives life, but the word of slander brings death. Why would any lover of Christ and His ways embrace this kind of living and thinking? Away with it!

IX. Conclusion: Crave the Truth "Crave pure spiritual milk..." This is what we are to crave now! The truth of God and his awesome reality – these are what we must pursue above all else. Should anything come against the Truth of God in our own live, there is one reasonable option for us: get rid of it! Think on the words of Hebrews 12:1-2. Only the God who made and remade you can fill that deepest yearning in you. Crave Him and never walk away empty.