



CULTIVATING COMMUNION

2 Peter 1:3-11 | Page 1733

WHERE WE ARE IN THE SERIES

Jesus uses his commands to form us — not just for obedience's sake, but to shape the kind of people we become

Our culture forms us into consumers of others — people who devour for their own gain

Jesus calls us to a different way: give rather than receive, lay your life down rather than take it up

Last week: the New Testament pattern is death and resurrection — pick up your cross daily

Today's question: *How do I actually change?*



2 PETER 1:5-7

"...make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love."

PETER'S PROCESS OF CHANGE



Faith — believe Jesus' way is truly better

Goodness — start doing what he commands

Knowledge — see how it actually works

Self-Control — good habits take root

Perseverance — keep going when it's hard

Godliness — you become the kind of person that Jesus is

Mutual Affection & Love — the goal: communion, not consumption





PRACTICE TEMPERANCE

to become someone who is not easily angered

REFLECT: PRACTICE TEMPERANCE

Are you being formed by Jesus into a person who is not easily angered?

Are you an angry person? Do you blow up? Are you easily offended?

Are those reactions really in proportion to the wrong you experienced?





PRACTICE FORGIVENESS

to become someone who keeps no record of wrongs

MATTHEW 18:32-35

"You wicked servant... Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' ... This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

REFLECT: PRACTICE FORGIVENESS

How are you doing in obeying Jesus' command to forgive?

Who have you not forgiven in your heart?





PRACTICE HONESTY

to become someone who delights in the truth

HONESTY — DELIGHTING IN THE TRUTH

MATTHEW 5:33-37

“Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.’ But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.”

REFLECT: PRACTICE HONESTY

How honest are you — not just in the big things, but in the small things?

If you tell someone you are going to do something, how likely are you to actually do it?





PRACTICE SPEAKING WELL OF OTHERS

to become someone who honors others

SPEAKING WELL – HONORING OTHERS

Ephesians 4:29: "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths"

James 1:26: "Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless."



SPEAKING WELL — HONORING OTHERS

"There are no ordinary people. You've never talked to a mere mortal."

C.S. Lewis (The Weight of Glory)



REFLECT: PRACTICE SPEAKING WELL OF OTHERS

Does your speech about everybody build up
or tear down?





PRACTICE NOT ENVYING

to become someone who is capable of contentment

REFLECT: PRACTICE NOT ENVYING

How content are you?

How often do you find yourself wishing you had what others had?

How often do you spend beyond your needs, or buy things impulsively?



FIVE PRACTICES TO PREPARE YOU FOR A LIFE OF COMMUNION WITH OTHERS

Practice **Temperance** — become someone who is not easily angered.

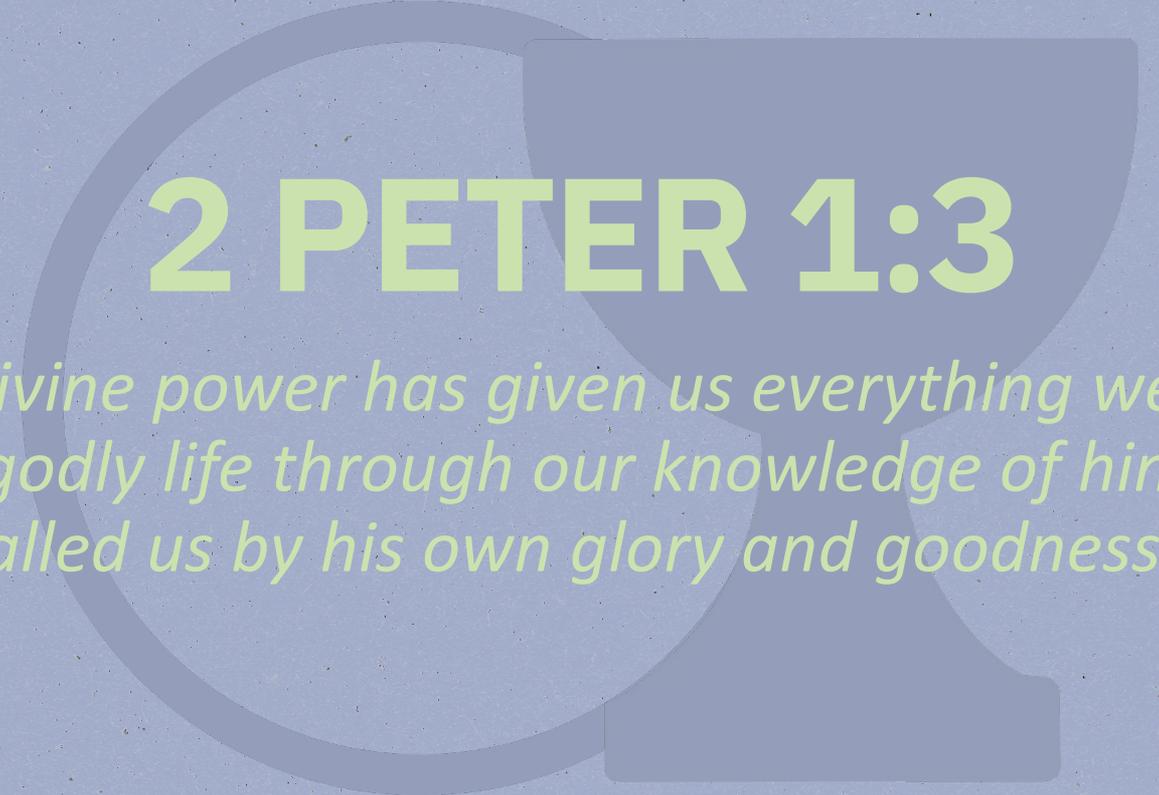
Practice **Forgiveness** — become someone who keeps no record of wrongs.

Practice **Honesty** — become someone who delights in the truth.

Speak Well of Others — become someone who honors others.

Practice **Not Envy** — become someone who is content.





2 PETER 1:3

"His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness."

2 PETER 1:5-7

"For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love."