

**Living Hope
Living Differently
1 Peter 1:17-2:3
Art Birch**

The more we experience God, the more we love each other.

Live in Awe

¹⁷ ...live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear.

What is reverent fear?

Why live in reverent fear? Three Reasons:

¹⁷ Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially....

¹⁸ For you know that ... you were redeemed ¹⁹...with the precious blood of Christ....

²¹ Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

Love in Depth

²² ...love one another deeply, from the heart.

What is love in depth?

Why love in depth? Three Reasons:

²² Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other....

²³ For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

² Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. ² Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, ³ now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

For Reflection and Discussion: How would you think, speak, and act differently if you were more conscious of God's presence with you and of His awareness of everything about you at every moment? Which of Peter's reasons to live in awe of God are most significant to you personally? What would it take for you to love more deeply? What one thing will you do about it this week?

Next Sunday: On December 2, the first Sunday of Advent, Pastor Craig will open for us 1 Peter 2:4-10, a passage that brings us to Jesus in all His uniqueness and describes who we are because of Who He is. To prepare, take time to read and ponder the text.

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