

Bravo

Description

2 Peter 1:1-9.

There is a longing for many Christians to one day hear the gracious words of Jesus saying, “Well done, good and faithful servant!” As much as we long to hear those words, we often struggle to surrender to the lordship of Jesus. In our passage today, Peter clearly connects with the idea or image of being a slave to Jesus. As we trust in the gift of God, Jesus, we must grow by supplementing our faith.

We are challenged to be and live in ways that seem to contradict the ways of the world (vv. 5-6). The way the book ends, however, sticks out to me as especially important, that we not devalue others. Peter calls us to moral excellence, which encompasses integrity, honesty, and compassion. These qualities spur us on in holiness.

The final supplement is a love for everyone that Peter distinguishes from familial love. Love for everyone seems easy, but here is my favorite definition of love from a pastor I follow: “Love is the demonstrated preference for the wellbeing of others, over and above myself, even at great personal expense, by the help of the Holy Spirit.” To be effective for Jesus, we must love everyone, even if it costs us everything.

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