

Survey of 1Peter

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1. Peter's audience: scattered churches (1:1, 2).
2. Outline according to Church Growth Needs
 1. *Trinitarian Worship* (1:3-12). We "bless God" with speech, financial offerings, singing, playing instruments, etc.
 - a. Preaching (1:12, 25; 4:6). Long for the word of God (2:2).
 - b. Sacraments: Baptism (1:2; 3:21), Communion?
 - c. Benediction (1:2; 5:14).
 - d. Prayer (1:17; 4:7).
 - e. Priesthood of believers (2:5); Every member a valued minister to God (2:7,9,10).
 - f. Christ's Preeminence (1:1,2,3,7,11,11,13,15,19, etc.)—hope in Christ's righteousness.
 2. *Discipleship/Sanctification—Holiness by grace* (1:2,13,14,15; 5:12)—moral responsibility (2:11,12; 4:2) and submission to God's authority (2:13,18; 3:1).
 3. *Evangelism Program* (2:9; 3:15), (2Cor.5:18-21)—God's initiative not man's
 4. *Loving Fellowship* (1:22; 2:17; 3:8; 4:8; 5:14)—Greeters, mercy ministers, etc.
 5. *Christian living in the home*: Husband/wife relationships (3:1-7).
 6. *Suffer for Christ* (2:20-21; 3:14,17; 4:12-19; 5:10)—submission to authorities.
 7. *Gifts Employed*: Develop Speaking and Serving Gifts (4:10-11).
 8. *Elder-Rule* (5:1-5).
 9. *Satanic Warfare* (5:8-9).
3. What do we not find mentioned as necessary for church growth?
4. 1Peter was most likely written during the Neronian persecutions. Most scholars argue for a date around 63 or 64 A.D.
5. 1 Peter has a specific purpose: exhorting and testifying to Christians concerning the true grace of God and the need to stand firm in it (1 Pet. 5:12).

Main Points and Application

1. Should 1Peter be viewed from the perspective of church growth or church comfort?
2. Where do we learn to do the things, we call "church things," the stuff we do at church and in church?
3. Evaluate what we call precious in life with the revelation from Peter:
 - Precious Trials 1:7
 - Precious Blood 1:19
 - Precious Cornerstone 2:4,6
 - Precious Christ 2:7
 - Precious Spirit 3:4
 - Precious Promises 2Pet.1:4

4. Let us be encouraged and led to praise our God as we consider how Peter describes our identity in Christ compared to life without Christ. What other religion or way of living offers any comparison of benefit?

- We have been born again to a living hope 1:3
- We have received an incorruptible inheritance 1:4,5,10
- We are kept by the power of God 1:5
- We are being purified to stand with Christ 1:7
- We have the salvation of our souls 1:9
- We have the good news angels seek to look into 1:12
- We have a great expectation of grace at the final return of Christ 1:13
- We have redemption through imperishable blood 1:18,19
- We have a faith that will not be disappointed 2:6
- We have new birth through the word of God 1:23
- We are being built up as a spiritual house 2:5
- We are a chosen people with eternal significance and value 2:9
- We shall have a crown of glory 5:4

5. Looking through the outline and scripture given for 1Peter outline, what is the element of church growth most needed today and why? Is there more than one aspect of church growth lacking?