

Are You Lactose Intolerant?

1 Peter 2:1-3

Scripture Reading: Psalm 119:97-104

Opening Illustration: Milk commercial from the '80s. "I may not be so big now, but I'm drinking milk..." Many of us grew up on Saturday morning cartoons and these great milk commercials. I can still see the commercial in my head and I can still recite the speech by memory (whether or not my memory is correct). We grew up on the idea that if you wanted to get strong, healthy and attractive that you did so by drinking milk.

I. Introduction

A. What is the danger we are facing?

1. We are in a situation in which we are not able to assemble together. We are doing the best we can, and this is temporary, but I am afraid that as this goes on and on, we may get used to it.
2. As this continues, I am concerned that our spiritual passions may become dull and lifeless.

B. What is the context of our passage?

C. What is commanded in this passage?

1. We are not commanded to "read" the word, but of course we have to do that!
2. We are not commanded to "study" the word in this passage.

II. Have we Ruined our Appetite? 1 Peter 2:1

A. We need to get rid of the junk food!

Ex: Why do we like junk food? It is certainly not because it is good for us, because it is not. We love junk food because it tastes good. The problem is, however, that in eating junk food, we may inadvertently ruin our appetite for dinner! We may miss out on a lot that is good for us because we filled up on things that rendered our appetite dull and unresponsive.

1. What is the point here?
 - a) In order to properly long for the pure milk of the word, we need to make sure that we are battling against our propensities to these key attitude problems.

B. What must we rid ourselves of?

1. **Malice—(κακία)**—Hatred for people will ruin our appetite for truth.
 - a) This word is defined as a "mean-spirited or vicious attitude or disposition, malice, ill-will."
 - b) Point: bullies feel good when they look on other with disdain. This type of attitude, though, must be fought in us if we truly desire to grow in the Lord.
2. **Deceit—(δόλος)**—Loving lies will ruin our appetite for truth.
 - a) This word is defined as "taking advantage through craft and underhanded methods, deceit, cunning."
 - b) Point: If we are quick to compromise the truth in order to manipulate people, than we may get to the point in which we are no longer even benefiting from the truth.
3. **Hypocrisy—(ὕποκρισις)**—Living a lie will ruin your appetite for truth.
 - a) This word is defined as "to create a public impression that is at odds with one's real purpose or motivations, play-acting, pretense, outward show..."
 - b) Point: We cannot love the truth and live a lie. If we are seeking to have a reputation for godliness instead of actually pursuing godliness, our thirst for the truth will die.
4. **Envy—(φθόνος)**—Resenting others will ruin your appetite for truth.
 - a) This word is defined as "envy, jealousy over the good success of another."
 - b) Point: When we become consumed with all the ways others are being treated better or with all the ways that others have better circumstances in their lives, such thoughts and feelings will deaden our desires to grow in the truth.
5. **Slander—(καταλαλιά)**—Attacking others will ruin your appetite for truth.

- a) This word is defined as “The act of speaking ill of another, evil speech, slander, defamation.”
- b) Point: We really have to be careful not to use the truth as a club in order simply to win over our adversaries, whether these adversaries are real or imagined.
 - (1) **ILL:** “Those preachers” on Twitter. You know the ones...they are the guys who are always preaching about how other preacher are so bad instead of preaching the truth! Why are they like this? Because in their zeal to oppose their enemies, their desire for growth in their understanding of the truth withers. I know...I have been there.

III. What should we crave? 1 Peter 2:2

A. We should crave the pure milk of the word—What is this?

- 1. Like we said earlier, to long for the word is more than simply “reading” it.
- 2. There must be some sense of craving, something spilling out from within that makes us desire to interact with the truth.
 - a) This must be our standard.
 - b) This must be sought in prayer.

B. Like what? A newborn baby!

- 1. Could there be a better analogy than this?
- 2. I have heard it said (take this with a grain of salt) that babies are so focused on being fed that when if they could kill you to get milk, they would. I have no idea how anyone could know this, but the point seems to be that babies cry...they CRY for milk and will not stop until they get what they need. Why aren't we like this with the Bible?

C. Do what? Long for the pure milk of the word.

- 1. What does it mean to “long” for the word?
- 2. What does it mean to long for the “pure” milk of the word?
 - a) The Greek word here is ἄδολος, which carries the idea of “unadulterated” or “undiluted”.

D. So what? What difference does this make?

- 1. Longing for the pure milk of the word results in spiritual growth.
 - a) **ILL:** Milk commercial from the '80s: “I may not be so big now, but I'm drinking milk...” We were brought up on the idea that in order to grow strong, we needed to drink milk.

IV. What must we consider? 1 Peter 2:3

A. Have we really acquired a taste for the word?

- 1. **ILL:** Truth is an acquired taste, like coffee. Does anybody like coffee the first time they taste it?
- 2. How do we know that we have tasted the kindness of the Lord?
 - a) One of the ways that we know that we have tasted the kindness of the Lord is that we long for the word of the Lord.

V. Conclusions/Exhortations

A. Read the Bible.

- 1. Commit yourself, now, especially if you have more time than before, to regular Bible reading and prayer.

B. Hunger and thirst for the Bible.

- 1. Commit yourself now, not only to read the Bible as something that must be checked off your daily to do list, but truly as a time to nourish your soul.

C. Don't let your hunger die.

- 1. Commit yourself, now, to doing whatever you can to grow in your faith so that this time will not be wasted.

ILL: Fasting. I have heard it said that if you fast for a long period of time, that you stop really feeling hungry. Your body just gets used to not being fed. Sadly, it can be the same way with us spiritually. Don't let that happen. Don't allow yourself to lose your hunger for the truth...your thirst for the word of God.