

Resolutions of the Apostle Peter

1Peter 1:6-7, 14-15, 2:21-25, 3:15-17, 4:12-16

1Peter 1:6-7, 14-15

- “In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ... 14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; 15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct”

1Peter 2:21-25

- “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: 22 Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth; 23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; 24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes you were healed. 25 For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”

1Peter 3:15-17

- “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; 16 having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. 17 For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil”

1Peter 4:12-16

- “Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; 13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. 14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. 16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.”

Resolutions of the Apostle Peter

- These are the words of a man who knew and fully understood the problems of:
 - Suffering,
 - Being ashamed of the gospel,
 - And the power of Satan
- How did Peter become so wise?
 - By making a lot of mistakes, correcting them, and learning from them

Resolutions of the Apostle Peter

- “Experience is the best teacher, but only the worst students need the best teacher.”
 - Julius Caesar recorded the earliest known version of first part of this proverb, “Experience is the teacher of all things” (De Bello Civili, 52 B.C.)
 - Jordan Peterson, Canadian psychologist, added the second half
- “Everyone makes mistakes” is a cliché that galls me. It is a misguided attempt to justify the mistake.
 - The only acceptable mistake is one that we correct and learn from.

Matthew 16:13-17

Right Answer, Wrong Source

- “When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, ‘Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?’ 14 So they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ 15 He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ 16 Simon Peter answered and said, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ 17 Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.’”
- Revelation, insight, and wisdom come from God, not man

Matthew 16:21-23

Right Feeling, Wrong Viewpoint

- “From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. 22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, ‘Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!’ 23 But He turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.’”
- It is good to feel love for another, but we shouldn't let our love cloud our understanding of what God truly wants.

Matthew 17:1-5

Right Attitude, Wrong Action

- “Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; 2 and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. 3 And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. 4 Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, ‘Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.’ 5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!’”
- Sometimes we feel nearly overwhelmed with desire to do something for the Lord's cause. It does not justify going beyond what God has commanded.

John 18:3-11

Right Battle, Wrong Weapon

- “Then Judas, having received a detachment of troops, and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. 4 Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, ‘Whom are you seeking?’ 5 They answered Him, ‘Jesus of Nazareth.’ Jesus said to them, ‘I am He.’ And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them. 6 Now when He said to them, ‘I am He,’ they drew back and fell to the ground. 7 Then He asked them again, ‘Whom are you seeking?’ And they said, ‘Jesus of Nazareth.’ 8 Jesus answered, ‘I have told you that I am He. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way,’ 9 that the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke, ‘Of those whom You gave Me I have lost none.’ 10 Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. 11 So Jesus said to Peter, ‘Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?’”

John 18:3-11

Right Battle, Wrong Weapon

- Christ was in a war, but it was to be fought by dying, not by killing
 - John 18:36 - “Jesus answered, ‘My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.’”
 - In His death, he defeated His slayer and saved His people.

Matthew 26:69-75

Wrong Place, Wrong Words

- “Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, ‘You also were with Jesus of Galilee.’ 70 But he denied it before them all, saying, ‘I do not know what you are saying. 71 And when he had gone out to the gateway, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, ‘This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth.’ 72 But again he denied with an oath, ‘I do not know the Man!’ 73 And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, ‘Surely you also are one of them, for your speech betrays you.’ 74 Then he began to curse and swear, saying, ‘I do not know the Man!’ Immediately a rooster crowed. 75 And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, ‘Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.’ So he went out and wept bitterly.”

Matthew 26:69-75

Wrong Place, Wrong Words

- Notice how Peter made a bad situation worse:
 - He distanced himself from the Lord
 - Consciously or unconsciously, he gathered with the Lord's opponents
 - He denied the Lord in the presence of others and then moved away from them toward the gate
 - He denies a second time in their presence with an oath when a girl points him out to others
 - They draw conclusions from the first two girls' charges as well as from Peter's accent, and he becomes verbally violent
- Peter should have been standing next to Christ in support; instead he denied Him from a distance.

Galatians 2:11-14

Wrong Spirit, Wrong Interest

- “Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; 12 for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. 13 And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy. 14 But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before them all, ‘If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews?’”

Galatians 2:11-14

Wrong Spirit, Wrong Interest

- Prejudice against individuals because of race, origin, socio-economic condition, nationality, or party affiliation is inexcusable.
- Peter not only showed prejudice, he showed a prejudice he did not truly feel.
- What could he have accomplished with his influence?!

2Peter 3:15-16

Right Heart, Right Statement

- “Consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation--as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, 16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.”

2Peter 3:15-16

Right Heart, Right Statement

- He did not hold a grudge against Paul.
- He recognized truth when he heard it.
- He blamed ignorance and offense on the ignorant and offended
- He then commended the most disliked and controversial of the apostles to the entire world for all of time.

2Peter 3:15-16

Right Heart, Right Statement

- Do you see the long term effects of the Lord's patience with Peter?
 - 1Thes. 5:14 - "Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all."
 - This does not justify their errors, nor does it allow others to ignore the sins.
 - It instruct the mature to bear with, pray for, and help develop them until they come to maturity, just as the Lord did with Peter.

Resolutions of the Apostle Peter

- Peter made mistakes; but he corrected them and learned from them.
- Peter never denied that he made a mistake and never tried to rationalize away his mistakes; he simply repented of them.

Resolutions of the Apostle Peter

- Luke 22:31-34 - “And the Lord said, ‘Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.’ 33 But he said to Him, ‘Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death.’ 34 Then He said, ‘I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me.’”
- May we come to be mature in the faith, just as did Peter.