



AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE REGARDING THE RIPPLE EFFECT..

crossroads church - 3 year campaign to end thirst

SOAP READING—March 3, 2010

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S: 1 Peter 2:4-12

O: Jesus is building a “holy nation” that will “show others the goodness of God (v.9)”—a people with a new identity and purpose. This challenges views of Christianity teaching Jesus as some sort of spiritual mentor, simply providing a rub on the back or a slap on the hand only. Jesus wants to refine us into a HOLY people with a HOLY cause. He want to redefine our understanding of life and love and morph our identity to look like his. And I want to be a part of that!

A: As is custom, Paul provides practical means for how we step into this kind of life. Here are two:

1. Keep away from worldly desires.
2. Live properly around unbelievers.

In my reading from yesterday I was challenged with a more specific way to live properly around unbelievers. In Phil 2:14, Paul says, “Do everything without complaining and arguing, so that no one can criticize you.” Unfortunately, I find myself complaining all too often. Sometimes it happens and I’m not even aware of it, so I asked my wife to cut me off if she hears me complaining around her. She gladly agreed. I want to be known as a person of gratitude, not as a complainer. And I want those who have misunderstood Jesus to see that he has had a profound effect on my life and can have one on theirs too.

P: God, help me to be person of deep gratitude that others might see you in me. Give me patience when I need it most and catch me in my act of complaining. Shape Crossroads into a church that is viewed as a holy nation; may we be marked with an identity that could only come from you. And, as a result, may others be drawn to what you are doing in the lives of Crossroadsians. Amen.