

## Having the Father's Figure

1 Peter 1:13-2:3

When I preach, I try to find creative & memorable ways of connecting the truths of Scripture to our daily lives! It's the challenge of preaching!

Sometimes God uses the strangest things to get my attention and give me an idea to run with in my sermon preparation!

This week my inspiration came from seeing a t-shirt online that said, *"It's not a DAD BOD, it's a FATHER FIGURE!"*

How in the world did that t-shirt make me think about today's Scripture?

Well, I can relate to the "Dad Bod", and though I want to make some changes to my physical appearance, it's hard to do what is necessary!

It takes a change of mindset! It requires a lifestyle adjustment! You have to eat different, exercise more, & makes choices based upon what you want to see when you look in the mirror, & not based upon what you see today!

It's hard work, but as a dad I should want to be healthy b/c of who I am!  
The same ought to be true of us as Christians! Lifestyle changes are needed.

**Vs. 13 – Therefore, preparing your minds for action, & being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.**

Living a healthy Christian life involves:

- **"Preparing your minds for action"**
- Acknowledging what is true about yourself, "being sober-minded", but knowing that you are called to be more.
- Setting your hope fully on what you long to one day see, "the revelation of Jesus Christ!"

Becoming spiritually fit requires much of the same sacrifice & effort that is required to become physically fit! Change happens with sweat!

**Vs. 14 – As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance...**

"Dad Bods" don't just show up overnight, it's a result of choices over time!

But when you want change bad enough, you'll choose to no longer conform to the patterns of your former ways! You'll choose to live differently!

When it comes to the Christian life, Peter says, **"but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, 'You shall be be holy, for I am holy.'"** How is that for a target goal?

It's here that the connection was made for me with that t-shirt! The emphasis is not on the DAD BOD, it is on the FATHER FIGURE!

As Christians, we have a heavenly Father whose figure has been revealed to us & He calls us as His children to resemble His figure! Be holy for I am holy!

God is our Father! We were created in His image to reflect Him in this world. He has **"ransomed"** us with **"the precious blood of Jesus Christ"**, & has given us His Spirit to make this transformation possible!

So as much as I don't want to have a "DAD BOD", I do want to have the Father's figure! I don't want to see me in the mirror, I want to see Christ!

Before the foundation of the world God laid out this glorious plan of redemption. That we would be **"born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God"** (vs. 23).

This **"word"** is the living word - Jesus Christ, but it is also the written word where faith originates, by the hearing & receiving of it through the Spirit!

I may want my physical body to look different, but all of that is temporary! **"All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever."**

What matters most is how God sees me, & how much I look like Him!  
So if we are in Christ, & He is in us, let's live differently, let's **"long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it we may grow up into salvation"** (ch. 2 vs. 2).

The Christian life has a steady diet & exercise regiment needed for spiritual health! And just like with our physical health, the more we engage in the right diet & exercise, the more we will not only see results, but the more we will want to see results!

When we can taste and see that the Lord is good, then the effect the **"Father figure"** will have on our lives will far surpass a better "dad bod"!

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