Sermon Series:	The Hope That Encourages Us
Sermon Title:	An Anatomy of Christian Growth
Sermon Text:	1 Peter 2:1-6

2 Essentials

I. THE WORD OF GOD IS ESSENTIAL FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

A. THE CORRUPTION WE MUST PURGE

1-3

- 1. The Imperatives Flowing from the Indicatives of 1:22 25
- 2. The Insistence on This Behavior

Christian conduct must flow from and correspond with Christian character. The active dimension of faith; a living faith. The gospel produces holiness= moral change. Recall 1:13-16, 17-25. Remove like filthy clothing sins that destroy the Christian community Malice – wickedness; ill-will; grudging behavior. Deceit – craftiness by bating someone; treachery; fraud Hypocrisy – hiding true character behind a mask of deception; pretending to be someone else. Mt 23 Envy – experiencing sorrow, grief, and jealousy over someone else's success

Slander - resulting from envy. Evil speech, defamation, and so on, to smear others' character

B. THE CONCENTRATION WE MUST POSSESS SHOW

2

The imperative flowing from the indicative in 3. The gospel alone, pure and unadulterated, will free us from the sins.

- 1. Our Pattern
- 2. Our Manner
- 3. Our Purpose
- 4. Our Objective

C. THE CERTAINTY WE MUST PROVE

3

1. The Condition

Cf. Ps 34:8 in context of 8-14.

2. The Cause

Introduction: God's 2nd remedy for holiness – living in *the communio sanctorum*, the communion of saints, the body of Christ, the church. Underscores nature of Christian identity = who we truly are. **Our** Christian identity is forged, formed, framed within the Christian community.

II. THE WORK OF GOD IS ESSENTIAL FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

Built is in passive voice. We do not build, we are being built. Recall Eph 2:20- built; 21 – being joined together; 22 – being built together; 4:16 –joined and held together; Mt 16:18; 2 Sam 7:8-13. 4

4-6

5

6

OUR CONTINUAL APPROACH

A.

Constant communion. Drawing on Ps 118:22; Isa 28:16; cf. Mt 21:42; Acts 4:11.

- 1. His Significant Designation
- 2. Their Arrogant Rejection
- 3. His Divine Reception

B. OUR COMFORTING ASSURANCE Our Fitting Comparison 1.

the Christian's status in relationship to Christ, the Chief Cornerstone

2. **Our Spiritual Construction**

Our Holy Conduct 3. the ultimate purpose of the priesthood.

C. OUR CONFIRMED ACCEPTANCE

From Isa 28:16. The immutability of our hope.

- According to the Divine Instruction 1.
- 2. According to the Divine Initiative
- According to the Divine Intention 3.