

**Peter's Teaching
About Manner Of
Life, # 3**

I. DEFINITION: ANASTROPHE, “In the NT, mode of life, conduct, behavior, deportment (Gal. 1:13; Eph. 4:22; James 3:13; II Pet. 2:7; 3:11); life, as made up of actions (Heb. 13:7; I Pet. 1:15)”- Spiros Zodhiates, The Complete Word Study Dictionary New Testament, pg. 164.

NOTE:

KJV goes with “conversation,” and “pass”

NKJV goes with “conduct”

NASV goes with “behavior,” “way of life,” and “conduct”

II. VAIN MANNER OF LIFE

“Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers”-I Peter 1:18, NJKV.

“Knowing that ye were redeemed, not with corruptible things, with silver or gold, from your vain manner of life handed down from your fathers”-I Peter 1:18, ASV.

A. “Vain,” or “aimless” comes from the Greek word “kenos.”

It means empty, vain, fruitless, useless, or false!

B. “Tradition,” (paradosis) a handing down or on; passing on, or a delivering over to someone else.

C. PARENTS CAN EITHER “HAND DOWN” A PROFITABLE, FRUITFUL, CHRISTIAN MANNER OF LIFE, OR THEY CAN “HAND DOWN” A VAIN, OR PROFITLESS MANNER OF LIFE!

III. OTHER PASSAGES DEALING WITH AN UNPROFITABLE MANNER OF LIFE

“Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Spirit: as your fathers did, so do ye”-Acts 7:51.

The things done by the fathers listed:

- 1. The patriarchs sold Joseph-7:9**
- 2. The fathers refused Moses-7:35**
- 3. The fathers would not obey the law, nor Moses-7:38 & 39**
- 4. The fathers turned to idolatry in less than 40 days - 7:7:40 & 41**
- 5. They worshipped the host of heaven-7:44 & 45**

6. The fathers persecuted the prophets-7:52

7. They slaughtered the ones showing the coming of Christ-7:52

8. The fathers betrayed and murdered Christ-7:52

9. They did not keep the law ordained of angels-7:53

10. Their children stoned Stephen to death as they followed in the steps of their fathers-7:54-59

NOTE: THIS POWERFUL INDICTMENT SPANNED 2,000 YEARS (FROM ABRAHAM TO THE EARLY CHURCH ERA), AND HIGHLIGHTS THE REJECTION OF GOD AND HIS SERVANTS DURING THIS ERA.

QUESTION: IS ANYONE SURPRISED THAT THE JEWS BROUGHT FALSE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST STEPHEN BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN COUNCIL, AND THAT STEPHEN WAS STONED TO DEATH?

THESE JEWS WERE MERELY FOLLOWING IN THE LIFE-PATTERNS SET BY THEIR FATHERS!

“But I said unto their children in the wilderness, Walk ye not in the statutes of your fathers, neither observe their judgments, nor defile yourselves with their idols”-Ezekiel 20:18.

“Notwithstanding the children rebelled against me: they walked not in my statutes, neither kept my judgments to do them, which if a man do, he shall even live in them; they polluted my Sabbaths: then I said, I would pour out my fury upon them, to accomplish my anger against them in the wilderness”-Ezekiel 20:21.

QUESTIONS:

Wasn't it sad that Ezekiel had to tell the children not to live as their fathers?

Even though Ezekiel plead with the children not to live as their fathers, are we surprised they rebelled against the Lord?

DON'T FORGET: THESE CHILDREN WERE THE CHILDREN OF GOD'S OLD TESTAMENT SAINTS!!

Recently, I pled with 2 young ladies who are Christians to search diligently until finding a faithful Christian man for marriage.

I said to them, "Search until you find someone like your dad, and you'll be okay!"

**Wouldn't it have been tragic if I had said to them,
“Don't find a man like your father!”**

Fortunately, these two young ladies have been brought up in a household where their mother and father live an exemplary manner of life!

THE MOTHER AND DAD IN THIS TRUE STORY INTENDED TO PASS ON TO THEIR DAUGHTERS THE CHRISTIAN MANNER OF LIFE!

TOGETHER, THEY WORKED DILIGENTLY AND PRAYERFULLY TO ACCOMPLISH THAT GOAL, AND THEY HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN DOING THAT!

THE TRUTH IS, EVERY MOTHER AND DAD IS EITHER TEACHING THEIR CHILDREN OBEDIENCE, OR DISOBEDIENCE TO THE LORD!

THE “RULE OF THUMB” WITH REFERENCE TO RAISING CHILDREN IS THAT THE CHILDREN ADOPT THE SAME MANNER OF LIFE AS THE PARENTS!

“Train up a child in the way that he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it”-Proverbs 22:6.

This is not an absolute statement!

**It is a “rule statement” that has the meaning of:
When a child is brought up in God’s way, he will likely
never depart from that way!**

**However, the bible itself shows us there are
exceptions to the statement;**

**Read the record in Ezekiel 18:5-17, and you’ll find
that Ezekiel teaches that a righteous man can have an
unrighteous son, and an unrighteous father can have a
righteous son.**

**Abel and Cain were raised in the same house by
Adam and Eve: Cain was evil and Abel was righteous!**

“I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old.

Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us.

We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.

For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children.

That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born: who should arise and declare them to their children.

That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.

And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God”-Psalms 78:2-8.

IV. Closing comments

A. What manner of life are we showing our children?

B. Will this manner of life lead towards heaven, or hell?

C. As a parent, have you ever thought about the greatness of the reward of seeing your children in heaven?

D. As a parent, have you ever thought about how you're going to feel if you fail to set the Christian manner of life before your children and they are headed towards hell?

E. At funeral services, I've often said that the greatest accolade that could ever be passed to a parent is that Christian children are left behind!

F. As a parent, is your manner of life presently such that your children are seeing the manner of life that God expects from you?

G. As a parent, do you think your children will likely spend eternity in heaven or hell based on your present conduct?