

# **Peter's Problem**

*Stuart Briscoe*

## I. Introduction.

A. There was a danger in the early days of Christianity that the movement would degenerate into another failed Jewish cult.

B. We can find great comfort in Peter's problems.

## II. Peter's prayer problem.

A. Peter knew a lot about prayer.

1. Peter learned from the example of Jesus.
2. Peter prayed regularly, spontaneously, continually.
3. Peter taught prayer.

B. Peter's problem was that he could not keep awake during prayer.

C. Peter's problem was with principles.

1. If a thing is worth doing, it is worth doing well.
2. If you think something, say it.
3. If something is worth believing, it is worth fighting for.
4. Peter was a true blue Jew so he would not "eat" unclean animals in his prayer.

III. The problem of the church is having deep rooted convictions but be willing to adapt as is necessary. The moral law never changed, but ritual laws can adapt.

## IV. God had the whole of mankind in mind.

A. Peter was prejudiced against certain people.

B. We need to see people as God sees people.

**Application questions:**

1. Which of Peter's prayer problems do you identify with the most? Explain.

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2. How can we know when to be flexible and when to be firm?

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3. Why is a people problem a prayer problem?

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