

HOW SHALL WE THEN LIVE? I Peter 3

¹³ Now, who will want to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴ But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't worry or be afraid of their threats. ¹⁵ Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. ¹⁶ But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ.

¹⁷ Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong!
I Peter 3:13-17

We Need to BE **REAL** and BE **READY!**

Six Things We Need to Be Real and Ready For This World!

1. We Must Enthroned Christ as **LORD** ¹⁵ Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life.

"If the professed convert distinctly and deliberately declares that he knows the Lord's will but does not mean to attend to it, you are not to pamper his presumption, but it is your duty to assure him that he is not saved. Do not suppose that the Gospel is magnified or God glorified by going to the worldlings and telling them that they may be saved at this moment by simply accepting Christ as their Savior, while they are wedded to their idols, and their hearts are still in love with sin. If I do so I tell them a lie, pervert the Gospel, insult Christ, and turn the grace of God into lasciviousness."
-----Charles Spurgeon

In the Early Church (Acts) preaching "Savior" appears two times and "Lord" **92** times!

2. We Must Always Be Ready With An Answer !

And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.

Do you know what you believe? Could you take the Bible and show verses?

3. We Must Practice Genuine **HUMILITY!** ¹⁶ But do this in a gentle and respectful way.

¹⁹ Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. ²⁰ Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. James 1:19-20

4. We Must Live a **GODLY** Lifestyle! Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ.

I Peter 3:16

¹² Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world.

I Peter 2:12

We should be **DISTINCTIVELY DIFFERENT** (Does not mean "Weird")

5. We Must Display Genuine **LOVE** ⁷ The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore, be earnest and disciplined in your prayers. ⁸ Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins. [no nitpicking] ⁹ Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay.
I Peter 4:7-9

**Black Backdrop of HATE gives us background for LOVE TO SHINE
The World Needs to Know What We are FOR not just what we are AGAINST!**

6. We Must Always Hold on to HOPE *And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.*

Hope Does NOT = wishful thinking but [elpsis Gr.] Confident assurance it will happen
Augustine [Rome sacked] --"Whatever build men build men will destroy. Let us get on with the Kingdom of God"

Our PRIMARY job is not to ultimate preserve America's Freedoms but to build GOD'S KINGDOM!

⁸ We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. ⁹ We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. ¹⁰ Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies. ¹¹ Yes, we live under constant danger of death because we serve Jesus, so that the life of Jesus will be evident in our dying bodies. ¹² So we live in the face of death, but this has resulted in eternal life for you. ¹³ But we continue to preach because we have the same kind of faith the psalmist had when he said, "I believed in God, so I spoke." ¹⁴ We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus, will also raise us with Jesus and present us to Himself together with you. ¹⁵ All of this is for your benefit. And as God's grace reaches more and more people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory. 2 Corinthians 4:8-15

Here is what God is doing in the world [Dr. James Kennedy] 100-100 1900-1000 1950-4000 1995-100,000

Projected 2000-200,000

**So when it looks dark we do not need to hide in fear
But carry banner of JESUS and sing ONWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS**