

Living in a Hostile World

1 Peter 3:8-12

Psalm 34:11-19; Romans 12:14-21



What is sin?

- See Handout: "What Is Sin?"
- God, and God alone, dictates what He considers sin. Sin, by God's definition is any disobedience, disregard, or ignorance of His commands that He has revealed in His written Word.
- ALL creatures of His, believers and unbelievers, are obligated to obey the Creator's laws, commandments, rules, etc. (Acts 17:30)
- Point #2 on our handout: Any disobedience to any imperative verb (command) in the New Testament and many in the Old Testament. (1 John 3:4)
- Examples of imperative verbs: "be holy" (1 Peter 1:14-16); "pursue . . . holiness" (Hebrews 12:14); "obey" (Hebrews 13:17); "continuously repent" (Mark 1:15); "present" (Romans 6:13); "run" (1 Corinthians 9:24); "watch, standfast, be strong" (1 Corinthians 16:13); "grow" (2 Peter 3:18); "watch and pray always" (Luke 21:34-36); "examine yourself" (2 Corinthians 13:5); "be steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58)
- Ignoring these and God's moral commandments is GROSS treason against a God who sacrificed His own Son to make us His children. (1 John 3:1; 4:10)
- Learning that we are GROSS, GROSS, GROSS sinners ought to drive us constantly to our knees, to confession, and to repentance. We OUGHT to be in complete AWE of God's longsuffering with us, His GREAT love for us. And the CROSS ought to overwhelm us each time we meditate on it.
- Any commandment, law, rule, statute that God has revealed is an expression of His love. (Deuteronomy 10:12-13; Luke 11:28; James 1:25)

1 Peter 3:8-17

A Letter to Suffering Saints

- Peter, moved by GOD, the Holy Spirit, wrote to those who are God's ELECT.
★ 1 Peter 1:1-2; 2:9
- If they are elect, then they are truly saved. ★ Romans 8:29-30
- Those who are suffering for the faith. ★ 1 Peter 1:6-7

- Those who are about to suffer even greater persecution. ★ 1 Peter 4:12-17
- To “great saints” the Holy Spirit, through Peter, instructs how to live in a hostile world.
 - ★ Romans 15:4 – This was written down for our learning!

Submission NOT Rebellion

- Peter was writing during the Roman Empire. Christians were being persecuted by the government and Peter knew that the persecution was going to worse.
- GOD’s answer to our question was/is SUBMISSION.
 - Submit to unjust human authorities (governments, family, church, school, university, etc.).(1 Peter 2:13-17)
 - Submit to unjust employers/masters. (1 Peter 2:18-21a)
 - Submit to one another in marriage. (1 Peter 3:1-7)
- ★ God sets the rules (laws, commandments) for our entire lives - as a citizen, employee, employer, student, father, mother, child.

Christ Is Our Perfect Example (1 Peter 2:21-25)

- (v. 21) As Christians (followers of Christ), we are not “. . . greater than our Master.” If they hated and persecuted our Master, they will hate and persecute us! (John 15:18-20; 1 John 3:13; Matthew 10:22; 24:9; Luke 6:22)
- (v.21) “For to this (unjust suffering) you were called . . .” (1 Thess 3:3; John 16:33; Romans 8:35-37; 1 Peter 4:12)
- (v. 21) Christ left us an example of how to suffer unjust suffering!

Surviving in a Hostile World (1 Peter 3:8-14)

- (v. 8) “Finally” – Peter concluded this section of his letter that he started in 2:11.
- In the following passage Peter gave more general instructions on how a Christian is to conduct him/herself in a hostile world:
 - ① (v. 8) “Be of one mind” – This is a HIGH CALLING for Christians.
 - ★ “like-minded” is a calling that is ignored by most churches and denominations. We pride ourselves on our “tolerance” of other beliefs though they are very different.
 - ★ Many declare that we must be “like-minded” in the “essentials”, but allow ourselves to disagree in the “non-essentials”. Yet, we cannot agree what the “essentials” are. And God has not divided His Word as man does today.
 - ★ See 1 Corinthians 1:10; 12:25; Romans 16:17; Ephesians 4:1-7; Philippians 1:27; 2:1-4.
 - ★ If Christ is the HEAD, then the Body must ALL be in perfect harmony with HIM! (Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:23; Colossians 1:18)

- ② (v. 8) Show sympathy; compassion one to another.
- ★ Definition: Sympathetic consciousness of others' distress together with desire to alleviate it. See Hebrews 13:3.
 - ★ Care for each other. Christ is our example in Hebrews 4:15.
 - ★ Share the same feelings for each other. (Romans 12:15; 1 Corinthians 12:26; 2 Corinthians 2:3-4; Colossians 3:12-13)
- ③ (v. 8) Show brotherly love toward each other.
- ★ Christians ALL belong to ONE family – the family of God. (Matthew 12:50; Romans 8:29; Hebrews 2:11-17; 3:6)
 - ★ We are to love our brethren "just as" Christ loves us! (John 13:34-35; 1 John 3:16)
- ④ (v. 8) Be "tenderhearted" or "kindhearted" toward one another or "pity" each other. Consider Psalm 51:1;
- ★ Ephesians 4:32; Romans 12:10; Colossians 3:12-13
- ⑤ (v. 8) Be courteous ("humble-minded") toward one another. (Eph 4:2)
- ★ Christ is our supreme example. (Philippians 2:5-8)
 - ★ Consider others more important than yourself. (Philippians 2:3; Romans 12:10; Ephesians 5:21; 1 Peter 5:5)
 - ★ Serve one another as Christ came to serve. (Matt 20:28)
 - ★ English definition: courteous: marked by respect for and consideration of others.
- ⑥ (v. 9) Do not return evil for evil, but bless!
- ★ The next series of exhortation turns from the brethren to all men – especially to those who do evil to us.
 - ★ (1 Peter 2:21-23) – Christ is our example.
 - ★ Romans 12:19; Hebrews 10:30
 - ★ Vengeance is a GREAT sin against GOD!
 - ★ Vengeance can be the form of words, thoughts or deeds.
 - ★ "blessing" is "eul ogi a (eulogia)". We get "eulogy" from this word and it means "to praise or speak well of others".
 - ☆ As Christians have received blessing upon blessing from the LORD, we are called to do the same to others! (Matthew 5:44; Luke 6:28; Rom 12:14)
- ⑦ (v. 10) Refrain one's tongue from speaking anything evil and deceitful. See James 1:26.
- ★ Christians are absolutely committed to the truth.
- ⑧ (v. 11) Peter quoted Psalm 34:14 here which gives four commands:
- ❶ Turn away from evil. Job is our example – a man who shunned evil. (Job 1:1; 2:3; 28:28; Psalm 37:27; Proverbs 3:7; 16:6, 17)
 - ❷ Do good. As God's goodness pursue us (Psalm 23:6), we are to imitate God (Ephesians 5:1) in pursuing good for others.
 - ★ Goodness is a fruit of the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 5:9)

- ★ We are not to imitate evil but what is good. (3 John 11)
- ③ and ④ Seek peace and pursue it!
 - ★ Both verbs are intensive.
 - ★ "seek" is *zhtew zeteo* and means "to seek in order to find"; "to aim at"; "to strive after". (Matt 5:9; James 3:17-18)
 - ★ "pursue" is *diwkw dioko* and means "to run swiftly in order to catch a person or thing"; "to seek after eagerly"; "to press on: figuratively of one who in a race runs swiftly to reach the goal".
 - ★ "to pursue" has the idea that we do not have it and we are use energy and discipline to "chasing after it".
 - ★ The verb (to pursue) is use to describe a hunter tracking down his prey.
 - ★ Because Christ, the Prince of Peace, *pursued us* (see Luke 15:4-5; 19:10) we pursue peace with each other. (Heb 12:14)
 - ★ (Romans 12:18) We are do everything in our power to live peaceable with all men.

The Reward (1 Peter 3:12)

- Peter continues his quote of Psalm 34 with verses 15-16.
- "the eyes of the Lord" – His all seeing (Proverbs 5:21; 15:3), all knowing (Psalm 147:5), and in this context His care. (Psalm 33:18; Job 36:7)
 - ★ The Lord's eyes are on the righteous – those doing right!
- "the Lord's ears are open to their (the righteous) prayers!
 - ★ 1 John 3:22; Proverbs 15:8, 29; John 9:31.
- BUT "His face is against those who do evil" -
 - ★ Leviticus 20:6; 26:17; Jeremiah 21:10; Ezekiel 15:7; Rev 6:16.

Living in this World

- ① Know what sin is. Examine ourselves regularly. Let the Word of God, especially but not exclusive the New Testament, be a mirror to show us our sins and be a two edged sword to pierce deeply into our soul. (James 1:22-25; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Corinthians 13:5)
 - Also see: fire and hammer - Jeremiah 23:29.
- ② Know and be prepared for the persecution that is coming. (1 Peter 4:12-17; Luke 12:34-36; John 15:18-20; 16:33; 2 Timothy 3:12)
- ③ We must follow Christ's footsteps.(1 Peter 2:21; Luke 9:23; John 13:15)
- ④ Living as we are instructed in a hostile world. (1 Peter 3:8-12; JAMES 1:22)