

“Living the Good Life”
“A Living Hope” — Part 7
1 Peter 3:8-17

“The chief reason God allows believers to remain in this world is so He might use them to win the lost and thereby bring glory to His name.”

John MacArthur

1. What are the marks of a redemptive life-style?

Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. For,

"Whoever would love life and see good days
must keep his tongue from evil
and his lips from deceitful speech.
He must turn from evil and do good;
he must seek peace and pursue it.
For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous
and his ears are attentive to their prayer,
but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."
1 Peter 3:8-12

Attitude is everything!

Harmony = a common commitment to the truth or united on the truth.

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then... I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved —and that by God.

Philippians 1:27-28

Sympathy = to feel for the needs of others or to sympathize with the pain of others.

Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

Hebrews 13:3

Brotherly love = affection among those who are closely related.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 13:34-35

Compassion = to be kindhearted or being so affected by the pain of others as to feel it deeply and be moved to action.

We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.

1 Thessalonians 2:8

Humility = regard others as more important than yourself.

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Philippians 2:3-4

Actions follow attitude!

Do not repay evil with evil = forgiveness, deliberately decide to love and refuse to exact revenge.

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another.

Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Colossians 3:13

We can decide to endure life, escape life, or enjoy life because we know God is in control.

Keep his tongue from evil = a controlled tongue or to keep one's self from lashing out in vengeance.

Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips. Psalm 141:3

Turn from evil and do good = more than just avoiding evil, it is to despise evil and do good.

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Hebrews 13:16

Seek peace and pursue it = a Christian should exercise grace as he relates to people and not create problems because he wants to have his own way.

Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.

Romans 14:19

2. Whom shall I fear?

Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened."

1 Peter 3:13-14

"Don't call everything a conspiracy, like they do, and don't live in dread of what frightens them. Make the Lord of Heaven's Armies holy in your life. He is the one you should fear. He is the one who should make you tremble. He will

keep you safe.

Isaiah 8:12-14 NLT

3. How can I be ready to face a hostile world?

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

1 Peter 3:15-17

Set apart Christ as Lord = Live only to please and glorify Christ. (Glorify God and enjoy Him forever.)

Be prepared to give an answer = Each crisis creates an opportunity for our witness. We get the word "apologetics" from the word "answer" in the Greek text.

Do this with gentleness and respect = Our purpose is not to win an argument but to win lost souls.

Keep a clear conscience = Our conscience is that inner witness that either approves or accuses our actions. Our conscience is a safe guide only when it has God's truth.

***Our world is so mixed up that it calls
evil good and good evil.***

Application and Lifework: As Peter sums up his focus on the importance of living such good lives that we draw others to Christ, he gives us a great list of evaluators for our growth and maturity. Every Christian is a witness. Christ has us here for that purpose. Our witness does not begin with having all the right answers to skeptics' questions. It begins with having the right lifestyle, the right attitudes and the right actions. I encourage you, use the attitudes and actions Peter set forth to rate your own maturity.

"Living the Good Life" is seventh in a series titled, "A Living Hope," October 20, 2013.
All verses are from the New International version unless otherwise noted.