

Studies in 1 Peter - Discussion Guide for Community Groups

Session 9: Honorable (1 Peter 2:11,12)

Background

Are you an honorable person? Maybe we should define what it means to be 'honorable' before we try to answer this question. Honorable simply means "To be worthy of honor." Here is a list of synonyms that help us define the concept of being honorable. (Morally correct, honest, ethical, principled, righteous, decent, respectable, virtuous, good, full of integrity) Why is it advantageous for Followers of Christ to be people that are honorable?

Bible Text: 1 Peter 2:11,12 NKJV

Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, [12] having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Did you ever purchase or use the services of a "Christian business" that turned out to be less than honorable? What followers of Christ need to understand is that we represent Jesus in every aspect of our lives; which means that every relationship that we have will be effected by our behavior. (Either negatively or positively) The influence that we wield on the people around us is rarely neutral.

- Why is our influence so crucial? (Because, we are called to be Christ's ambassadors) People will often judge Jesus on the basis of our behavior.
- What is the net result of Christian leaders who fall into sin? (It often discourages the saints and destroys the reputation of the Church)

Read Verse 11: Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul...

- What would be your top 3 reasons for abstaining from fleshly lusts? (And why?)
 1. My example might lead other people astray.
 2. Living according to fleshly lusts reflects poorly on Jesus, my Lord.
 3. Sin has negative consequences for me.
- What is it in human nature that "leans" towards walking in the flesh as opposed to walking in the Spirit?
- Read Galatians 5:16-21 NKJV I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. [17] For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. [18] But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. [19] Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, [20] idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions,

dissensions, heresies, [21] envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Read Verse 12: having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

- According to this verse, we should live our lives in such a way that it is observed by others, and it causes them to glorify God. (What do you think this kind of a lifestyle looks like?)
- Let's be pro-active. There are actual actions and activities that there are no laws against. Galatians 5:22-23 NKJV But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Wrap-up: All of us live in real time. That means that we all have time that is filled with a string of continuous actions—this is called “life.” What is crucial is that our lives are filled with a schedule of activities that are pleasing to God.

- Here is an important consideration: If we live lives that are full of the fruit of the Spirit, will our lives be honorable and bring glory to God? Read: Matthew 5:16 NKJV Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.