

Sermon: How to Live the Christian Life

Text: [1 Peter 3:8-22 ESV](#)

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Introduction: Today, in America, the Church may not be so much persecuted as it is mocked and made into a negative caricature. Our post-Christian culture believes in: many ways to God (whoever She is). And as people in the Church question their own faith and moral convictions because the majority of opinions are against them, it is still critically important to remember that God's Word is our foundation.

I. We Must Live in _____ (vv. 8-12).

A. with the _____

B. with _____

II. We Must _____ for Christ (vv. 13-17).

A. by doing _____

B. without _____

C. in a proper relationship with _____

III. We Must Live Like _____ Did (vv. 18-22).

A. by _____

B. by being made _____

C. by going to _____

Conclusion: How is your conscience? If you are old enough to “pledge a good conscience toward God” or make “an appeal to God for a good conscience” (v. 21), you are old enough to place your faith in Jesus and be baptized. Have you done what God has asked? Do you know how your journey will turn out? The Bible is clear! [Mark 16:16 ESV](#) 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

I Peter 3:8-22 ESV

8 Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. 9 Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. 10 For “Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; 11 let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. 12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.” 13 Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? 14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, 15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, 16 having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. 17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. 18 For Christ also suffered[a] once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, 19 in which[b] he went and proclaimed[c] to the spirits in prison, 20 because[d] they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. 21 Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

Footnotes

[a] 1 Peter 3:18 Some manuscripts died

[b] 1 Peter 3:19 Or the Spirit, in whom

[c] 1 Peter 3:19 Or preached

[d] 1 Peter 3:20 Or when