

## Living for Christ

How do we live holy lives in a corrupt society?

The church unfortunately parallels the standards of society, while claiming to be followers of Christ. Values are displayed by what you do more than what you say. Peter shows us that we must live in obedience to Christ, anticipating His return.

1 Peter 1:13-21

<sup>13</sup>Therefore, prepare your minds for action,  
 keep sober in spirit,  
 fix your hope completely on the grace  
 to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

<sup>14</sup>As obedient children,  
 do not be conformed to the former lusts  
 which were yours in your ignorance,

<sup>15</sup>but like the holy One who called you,  
 be holy yourselves also in all your behavior,

<sup>16</sup>because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

<sup>17</sup>If you address as Father  
 the One who impartially judges according to each one's work,  
 conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth,

<sup>18</sup>knowing that you were not redeemed  
 with perishable things like silver or gold  
 from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,

<sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood

as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

<sup>20</sup>For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world,  
 but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you

<sup>21</sup>who through Him are believers in God,  
 who raised Him from the dead  
 and gave Him glory,

so that your faith and hope are in God.

How shall we live for Christ when there is so much corruption?

Four Words describe Peter's answer:

Preparation, Dedication, Anticipation, Redemption

## I. Preparation:

Peter offers several keys to facing the complex problems of a corrupt creation.

<sup>13</sup>Therefore, prepare your minds for action,  
keep sober in spirit,  
fix your hope completely on the grace  
to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

### 1. Mental preparation

Recognize who our enemies are: The world, the flesh, and the devil.

Swindoll writes,

“We must remain focused on Christ because our primary battlefield is the mind. The enemy has his sights set on our minds. If he can get us to focus on something other than the hope we have in Jesus Christ, he will have won the battle – everything else will be just claiming the spoils of war.”<sup>1</sup>

Just as a soldier, athlete or professional must prepare, so we must know the Word of God, know God’s standards, and be sure of our faith. What we put in comes out. This is mental preparation. Our minds must be holy if our behavior is to be holy. We must also be prepared for others’ sake, as Peter writes, “...but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense [apologetics – to give an answer] to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence” (1 Peter 3:15).

### 2. Spiritual Sobriety

Sober (1:13; 4:7; 5:8) nepho – literally means to avoid drunkenness – metaphorical us to being clearheaded rather than cloudy (1 Thess. 5:6, 8; 2 Tim 4:5) Self control is to be God-controlled.

Temperate, discerning spirit

– The ability to focus fully on what’s most important.

**Clutter:** basically has to do with unfinished projects or tasks. It is demonstrated by having a chair with stuff on it. The design of a chair is different from a closet where things are to be hung or put away.

After using a shirt I’ll leave it on a chair, on its way to being hung up.

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<sup>1</sup> Charles R. Swindoll, *Swindoll’s New Testament Insights: James, 1 & 2 Peter*, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010), p. 158.

A week later I notice that my shirt, along with many other items have collected on the chair - cluttering. The same could be said of many other of my tasks that remain unfinished – clutter. I counted 6 or 7 tasks just in my space in our house, not to mention all the outside ones. I am deliberately forgetting other, long-term projects to keep sane. The biggest thing undone is often the clean-up. I'm sure my family feels blessed to have a handyman in the house.

This verse includes the exhortation, **keep sober in spirit**,  
clear minded and *focused on the most important tasks*.  
What keeps us from being clear headed?

Mental clutter, is often due to... *slothfulness*.

Diligence – *Spudain* – a word Peter uses in his second letter,  
“supplying all diligence...add to your faith moral excellence”  
(2 Pet. 1:5)

This is an idiom that literally means “*to bring every effort to*” a task,  
implying haste, eagerness, and determination.  
It means to apply ourselves as much as possible.

**Diligence** is accepting each task as a special assignment from the Lord  
and using all my energies to do it quickly and skillfully.

The opposite – sloth

Pr. 24:30-34; 26:13-16 -- zero maintenance policy.  
“Having no time because I have wasted it away.”

Laziness is excusing yourself as a garden is slowly overtaken by weeds.

Ecc. 9:10 “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might”

Thomas A Kempis said, “Whoever loves much does much.”

*Mental preparation, Spiritual sobriety, and...*

### 3. A Hopeful Outlook of the future

**fix your hope** completely on the grace  
to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Peter offers this verse of healing to the persecuted churches.

- When Christ returns when He will establish His kingdom.

- He will come with grace, and fulfill our hopes.

These areas deal with mental preparation, a diligent focus, and a positive hope.

Now Peter directs us to dedication – from thinking to obedience.

## II. Dedication

Dedication involves commitment to live for Christ.

Holiness means separated for God's purposes.

<sup>14</sup>As obedient children,

do not be conformed to the former lusts  
which were yours in your ignorance,

<sup>15</sup>but like the holy One who called you,  
be holy yourselves also in all your behavior,

<sup>16</sup>because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

These may not be the most popular verses in the Bible among believers today.

Behave – to leave former lusts – every kind of past immorality

1 Cor. 6:9-11

Be Holy! – to be God-like

### Believers Behave.

It's easy to verbally say something; it's what we do that matters.

Jesus asked the question of His followers,

"How can you call Me Lord, and not do what I command?"

John writes,

"If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him." (1 John 2:29)

"Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning...." (1 John 3:7-8)

**Peter says,**

be holy yourselves also in all your present behavior,

Consider the differences between Moses or Aaron?

Moses spent time with God; Aaron spent time with the people.

Aaron was an excellent speaker; Moses was “slow in speech” Aaron gave the people what they wanted: gold. Moses: stone tablets.  
 Aaron encouraged the people to party. Moses laid down the Law (de-calf-inated).

“He gave them the desires of their heart, but sent leanness to their souls.”

Ps. 106:15

A spiritual transformation needs to take place which displaces our character of sin by His character of holiness. Lloyd J. Ogilvie

Remember dedication is demonstrated.

### III. Anticipation

Why is it important to demonstrate holy living?

**Peter’s answer is:**

Because there is a coming day of accountability.

<sup>17</sup>If you address as Father

the One who impartially **judges** according to each one’s work,  
**conduct yourselves in fear** during the time of your stay on earth,

Paul writes

“So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.”

(Rom. 14:12)

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” (2 Cor. 5:10)

In the next verse Paul adds,

“Therefore, knowing **the fear of the Lord**, we persuade men...” (v. 11)

There is a particular verse in 1 Corinthians that makes it clear that a believer who gains no reward will still be saved, but God’s judgment will separate the commendable things of his or her life from the wasted time, money, energy, and motives that tainted that believer’s holiness.<sup>2</sup>

“...each man’s work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man’s work. If any man’s work which he has built on it

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire."  
(1 Cor. 3:13-15)

We live as those who will one day give account.

**In Jesus' Parable of the Talents**, the master left his servants in charge of his business, giving each specific sums a money according to their abilities.

When He returned he inspected each man's work, rewarding the faithful ones, and punishing the wicked lazy slave, who simply buried his talent.

In faithfulness fear while we're here, until we're face-to-face with Him there.

The day is coming when we shall give an account to our Lord Jesus Christ.

"Only one life, t'will soon be past,  
Only what's done for Christ will last"

**Reviewing Peter's message:**

- Prepare – Disciplined in Mind, diligence in character, and hope in Christ's future return.
- Dedicate – Behave and be holy.
- Anticipate – Believer's Accountability at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

At the end of today we'll be one day closer to Christ's return,

"And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure." (1 John 3:3)