

1 Peter Week 10

Becoming an Advertisement

1 Peter 2:11 Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. 12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. 13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, 14 or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. 15 For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. 16 Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. 17 Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.

- As Christians, what are you ADVERTISING with your life?
- Peter is saying we need to ABSTAIN, put off, every sinful desire that wars against you.
- Sinful desires are best understood as strong desires motivated by my own SELFISHNESS.
- We need to abstain because these actions mount a full MILITARY campaign against the spiritual strength, vitality, and growth of a believer.
- When we satisfy desires that draw us away from God, the FLESH is in control of our mind and actions.
- Satan desires to wear us down, to make us spiritually weak, and eventually make us INEFFECTIVE.
- We should be taking a positive approach to demonstrate a different QUALITY of life for every non-believer to see.
- Satan's greatest tool for many today is just living with INDIFFERENCE.

Our Calling: "Submit yourself."

- Submission is the overriding action REQUIRED of every believer.
- It really means doing RIGHT in God's eyes, not man's eyes.
- This will not just accomplish the will of God, it will also be a powerful testimony concerning the CHARACTER of God.
- Peter is telling us freedom in the New Testament is not talking about POLITICAL freedom but SPIRITUAL freedoms.

Christian Freedoms

1. Freedom from the RULING power of sin in our lives.
2. Freedom from GUILT because our sins have been forgiven by God.

3. Freedom from the impossible OBLIGATION of earning favor with God by what I do.

- God is worthy of our LOYALTY.
- The beauty of any relationship that has life and bears fruit is that it is entered into by CHOICE.

Unjust SUFFERING

- Peter's praise is directed to the believer who bears up under trials and is able to ENDURE it.
- How does he do this? By his consciousness of who God is and his WORSHIP of God.

Dennis Jernigan's book Giant Killers

1. God wants to show me his LOVE.
2. Worship is a shortened form of an old English word "worth-ship"
3. It is seeking to KNOW God so He can and will direct our paths.
4. Worship is defined by OBEDIENCE to God.
 - It shows proper RESPECT to everyone--even those who bug you
 - Called to love the brotherhood of BELIEVERS
 - In all we do we should be honoring God with our HONESTY
 - Honesty requires CONFESSION with God and with loved ones
 - Confession requires TRUST, which paves the way to a deeper relationship with God and loved ones.

Final thoughts

1. Make sure what your "ADVERTISING" is what you're living out.
2. Get a better understanding of your own WORTH and God's worth.
3. Remember to be HONEST with yourself and with God.
4. Pray that your advertisement will, in time, bear FRUIT into the lives of others.