

“Stand Fast!”

The First Epistle of Peter

Lesson 6, for Sunday, November 18, 2001

To sum up, let all be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; 9 not returning evil for evil, or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing. 1 Peter 3:8, NAS

The Outline

- II. The chastened response of practical holiness (2:1-3:22)**
- C. Unimpeachable living, the answer to persecution (2:11-3:13).
1. Deference to statutes, officers, fellow citizens (2:11-2:17).
 2. Submission by servants, even to injustice (2:18-2:25).
 3. Deference of wives to husbands (3:1-3:6).
 4. Consideration for wives (3:7).
 5. Divine love among the saints (3:8-3:13).

The Argument

Do the right thing! Be respectful and loving toward your own marriage partner. Win your mate over with your loving behavior. Do not be two different persons, putting on an impressive show with no real character behind it.

Do the right thing! Be a consistent witness for our Lord. Do not live by the world's ways and then expect to have much of a Christian witness. Do not rely on showy extravagance to attract attention, as if this would somehow lead anyone to follow the Lord. Rather, follow the lead of the Holy Spirit in living your life in an ordered, Christian manner, one which will show the true attitude of the heart.

Do the right thing! Live with your mate in a most understanding manner. Treat your marriage partner as you ought, as one of the Lord's own chosen people. How can you effectively pray with someone whom you regard as less an heir of the promise than yourself?

Do the right thing! Let your witness be a positive one, both in your behavior toward each other, and in your relations with the unbelievers among whom you live. Treat others properly even if they treat you badly; to do otherwise is to live as the world does.

Do the right thing!

The Key Words

Behavior: ἀναστροφή -- to conduct oneself, with apparent focus upon overt daily behavior - 'to live, to conduct oneself, to behave, behavior, conduct.' Examples: 'we lived in malice and envy' Tt 3.3, 'you have followed my teaching, my conduct, and my purpose in life' 2 Tm 3.10, 'our conduct in the world is by the grace of God' 2 Cor 1.12. 'you have been told of my life when I was devoted to Judaism' Ga 1.13.

Fellow-heir: συγκληρονόμος -- one who receives a possession together with someone else - 'one who also receives, receiver, fellow heir.' Example: 'heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ' Ro 8.17. It is essential in rendering κληρονόμος (57.133) or συγκληρονόμος to avoid any implication of being an 'heir' to anyone who has died. The focus is upon receiving an unearned gift. In the biblical sense 'heirs of God' are those who will receive the blessings that God has for his people.

Righteous: δίκαιος -- pertaining to being in accordance with what God requires - 'righteous, just.' Example: 'Joseph, her husband, was a righteous man' Mt 1.19.

The Quotations

1 Peter 3:10-11 “For, ‘Let him who means to love life and see good days refrain his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking guile. And let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it.’”
Psalm 34:13-16

1 Peter 3:12 “For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears attend to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.” Proverbs 16:7