

---

# holy living in troubled times

1 PETER

---



**faith**church  
STATESVILLE

# **holy living and doing good**

1 peter 2

# holy living

- Purity – God is fully and completely pure and any holy living we walk in, comes from Him.
- Presence – God always wanted His presence to be among His people. We are holy because He is in us.
- Power – The power of God both compels us and equips us to live holy lives.

# hope

- The book is centered on a hope that we may not experience in this life.
  - **1 Peter 1:13:** *Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*
- Peter continually tells us throughout the book that if we live Christian lives, we will experience a fight from the culture. Throughout this we are to live and respond like Jesus.

# 1 peter 2: 1-17

*So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.*

*As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture:*

# 1 peter 2: 1-17

*“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious,  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”*

*So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do  
not believe,*

*“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone,”*

*and*

*“A stone of stumbling,  
and a rock of offense.”*

*They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were  
destined to do.*

# 1 peter 2: 1-17

*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

# 1 peter 2: 1-17

*Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.*

# 1 peter 2: 1-17

*Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.*

# living

- We have a living hope.
  - **1 Peter 1:3b:** *he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*
- There is a living word.
  - **1 Peter 1:23b:** *through the living and abiding word of God;*
- We serve a living savior.
  - **1 Peter 2:4a:** *As you come to him, a living stone*

# living

- Everything about who you are in Christ and every experience you have is a *living* experience from a living savior.
- Sometimes it feels like we are on life support, but we are living our lives with God.
  - Too many Christians live with what looks like a dead faith.
- Our response to the living Jesus will tell us whether we grow and are transformed or whether we stumble and fall.

# identity

- You are chosen, royal, holy, belong to God, living in His marvelous light, and people of mercy.
- Peter roots a Christian's holy living and doing good works in their identity.
  - Too many churches/Christians root holy living in a a love/punishment based paradigm.
- We do not pursue holiness (purity, presence, and power of God) because of what will happen if we do not, we pursue holiness because of who Jesus made us to be.

# troubled times

- Peter adds two adjectives to the reality of who they are.
  - *Sojourners and exiles*
  - Abraham was a sojourner in the land that was promised to him, but was not yet his.
- The passions of your flesh waging war against you.
- The government may be battling against a Christian, but we stand for truth in the midst of it.

# doing good

- Doing good is designed to silence people who might speak ill of you.
  - *v.12: Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.*
  - *v.15: For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.*
- The early church lived this out in extreme conditions
  - Tertullian, The Apology

# doing good

- Radical obedience to God means to seek Him first during troubled times.
- Radical obedience is not opening your mouth to defend yourself but living a holy life, doing good works.
- Radical obedience changes the world.

# reflection

- Is Jesus the cornerstone or the stumbling block?
- How is your identity shaping your reality?
- Where are called to radical obedience?