

“9 But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light: 10 Which in time past *were* not a people, but *are* now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. 11 Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; 12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by *your* good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.” (1Pe 2:9-12 AV)

Introduction. In spite of the Supreme Court rulings this week, the message I had planned from I Peter fits perfectly. So if you came expecting to hear a sermon on homosexuality, you will be disappointed, unless you want to hear Biblical principles that direct all of morality. I do not care about “traditional” morality or “traditional” immorality, and my ministry for over fifty years testifies to it. So called evangelical Christianity, revivalism, and even some of the neo Calvinists are finding themselves in a box this week. But God uses such things as this to purify his church and teach us to seek Him alone for all things.

But let me read our text again: 11 DEARLY BELOVED, I BESEECH *YOU* AS STRANGERS AND PILGRIMS, ABSTAIN FROM FLESHLY LUSTS, WHICH WAR AGAINST THE SOUL; 12 HAVING YOUR CONVERSATION HONEST AMONG THE GENTILES: THAT, WHEREAS THEY SPEAK AGAINST YOU AS EVILDOERS, THEY MAY BY *YOUR* GOOD WORKS, WHICH THEY SHALL BEHOLD, GLORIFY GOD IN THE DAY OF VISITATION.”

Having your conversation honest means: your way of life is to be good and pure through and through. Not just an appearance, not just a taste of goodness, but without hypocrisy or deceit. It is what Jesus said, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your father which is in heaven.” Why? Because you belong to Jesus. You are

not your own. You are a royal priesthood and a spiritual house. You are a precious, a people that belong to Christ only, a chosen generation, an holy nation that has been called out of darkness into light. You are to be this through and through is what “honest conversation” means. Do we perfectly attain this, no, and even the great apostle Paul denied that he had attained this goal, but he followed after it, just as we must. If I am overtaken by the devil in a flaw, then I confess it and seek to correct it; this is a struggle that I have all my life through.

There are three major areas in which our lives are to be lived honestly: 1. As good citizens; 2. As good workers; 3. as good family members. Let us look at these.

- I. Good Work toward Citizens. Verses 13-16.
 - A. The purpose of government is to praise those that do good and punish the evil.
 - B. If government turns around and become an instrument of rewarding the evil and punishing the good, this it is proper to speak against it and to seek to change it. We do this in America at the ballot box. Thus the Declaration of Independence and certain articles of the Constitution, our supreme law.
 - C. But we are called to live a quiet life, not constant agitators over minor flaws, and raising clamors. Every civic institution has its rules and we are to abide be those rule, state, county, city, federal, which are all ruled by the various constitutions.
 - D. “every ordinance of man” means those that are within the authority of man to make. Otherwise, we are to obey God, rather than man, if the ordinance of man conflicts with what God has commanded us to do. I will, as long as I have breath, preach everything that is in the Scriptures; I will preach it openly and plainly, so help me God. I will preach it in private and in public, so help me God.
 - E. This generation has plainly indicated that it despises the very concept of covenant and the lawlessness of Gnosticism has spread over the lan. We do not keep our contracts in church, home, employment,

business, or government at all levels. The whole body is sick. From the top of the head to the soles of the feet there is no soundness in it, but wounds, and bruises and putrifying sores. Isaiah wrote that about Israel many centuries before Christ, but they hung on as a nation with a priest and a temple until Christ removed the kingdom of God from them and they were swept away by the Romans

F. But you and I are to live quietly, pay tribute, pray for our rulers, living in terms of the gospel and Psalm 37. Doing good to all men, and speaking the truth to all men.

II. Good work on the job. 1 Peter 2:18-25

A. The Bible commands us to

1. Maintain good works: Tit 3:8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

2. For necessary uses: Tit 3:14 And let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.

B. Labor-management under the worst possible conditions.

1. You are to do your job and be good workers, honest, faithful, adorning the doctrine of God.

2. This would apply to the military.

3. See Pr 27:18 Whoso keepeth the fig tree shall eat the fruit thereof: so he that waiteth on his master shall be honoured. Worst possible conditions.

III. Good work at home. 1 Peter 3:1-7 a summary of what is taught by the other scriptures.

A. There is to be order in the home.

B. Wives: Inward graces are more important than outward appearance, although we must remember the Lord dresses his bride in the most gorgeous raiment and silver and gold. But the greatest adornment is the inner man vs. 5

C. Husbands: Live in knowledge. Don't be an ignorant bum. Be strong. Honor the wife. Be able to lead her.

D. As I said, this is just a brief summary

Conclusion: the good life: 3:8-12

A. Walk in love and compassion: vs. 8

B. Watch your tongue: vs. 9-10 It is an evil time.

C. Hate evil and do good vs. 11

Amos5:10 They hate him that rebuketh in the gate, and they abhor him that speaketh uprightly.

11 Forasmuch therefore as your treading is upon the poor, and ye take from him burdens of wheat: ye have built houses of hewn stone, but ye shall not dwell in them; ye have planted pleasant vineyards, but ye shall not drink wine of them.

12 For I know your manifold transgressions and your mighty sins: they afflict the just, they take a bribe, and they turn aside the poor in the gate from their right.

13 Therefore the prudent shall keep silence in that time; for it is an evil time.

14 Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the LORD, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken.

D. Pray much, for your prayers are heard: vs. 12.

Amen and Amen.