

Our Walk Talks

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1 Peter 2:12 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.

- I. This verse speaks of things that are apparently lost to this generation.
 - A. The Bible is full of admonitions and instructions to Christians about how to live in this world.
 - B. The reasons behind all these commands are always the same - that we may honor God before men and be part of the reason they turn to God and not part of the reason they turn away from Him.
 - C. Our generation has come to believe that the way a Christian conducts themselves is of no consequence and is nobody's business but his.
 - D. This is partly the result of doctrine and philosophies that try to erase the differences between the saved and the lost.
 1. The previous verses told us that God's people are special, different than the world, a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a peculiar people, an holy nation.
 2. So any doctrine or philosophy that throws us all into the same barrel with the wicked of this world certainly does not come from the mind of God, but from the devil.
 3. It has been his method since the Garden of Eden to erase the lines between good and evil.
 - E. The only hope for the lost is that there is a clear difference between the people of God and the wicked of this world.
 - F. Those who invented and use this slanderous phrase against God and his ways called "lifestyle evangelism" are going to regret it when they stand before God.
 - G. The reason that there has always been the idea in people's minds that Christians are supposed to be honest, good, fair, and kind is because the Bible is full of it.
- II. Our "conversation" is the subject of this verse.
 - A. This is the definition of that word:

General course of manners; behavior; deportment; especially as it respects morals.
 - B. The word has come to be understood as simply our talk, but the Bible uses it in a much broader sense here.
 - C. It is the sum of how we are perceived by those around us.
 - D. It refers to how we conduct ourselves around others and how we treat other people.
 1. With our words - how they are spoken and the subjects we talk about.
 2. With how we handle our dealings with other people in business, work, and social interaction.
 - E. We are told here to make sure our conversation is HONEST, which means more than simply acting without deceit.
 1. Upright; just; fair in dealing with others; free from trickiness and fraud; acting and having the disposition to act at all times according to justice or correct moral principles.

Fair, sincere, good, lovely, decent, amiable, and without blame

- III. The reason given for having our conversation honest is that the lost might see our good works and "glorify God in the day of visitation."
- A. So we know for certain by this verse that the way we live our lives DOES make a difference in the destiny of the souls of other people.
 - B. If we dishonor God by our conduct and behavior it certainly will cause someone else to turn away from God.
 - C. If we honor God with our conduct and behavior it will CERTAINLY cause others to turn to God - or they wouldn't be glorifying God in the day of visitation.
 - D. It is not our works that save other people, but it IS our works that awakens them from their careless, sinful, godless state of mind and heart.
 - E. Christians are considered evil by the world, which is upside down in everything.

... that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers,

- 1. They call evil good and good evil, so it is no strange thing that they think Christians to be evil.
 - 2. Those that are outside the church almost always speak and think evil of the church.
 - 3. The main reason for this is the corruption that has been allowed in the churches; all the public scandals, and the immorality and perversion that has been tolerated in the churches.
 - 4. When they look at us they suspect we may be the same as what they have seen so much of.
 - 5. Part of the reason we are to live differently than they do is that their minds might be changed about God's people being evil.
 - 6. Only by getting to know us individually through the dealings we have with them will their minds be changed about us.
- F. Our conversation should be such that anyone who gets to know us will not be able to say we are evil.
- G. Our conversation should turn their prejudices against God and his people upside down, which they have learned from the ungodly of this world which are in control of all the entertainment, education, and media of this world.
- H. In order for our conversation to make a difference we must interact with world.
- 1. How can we reach a world we never touch?
 - 2. But we must interact with the world without becoming entangled with the world.
 - 3. Our conversation will not be what it needs to be if we join in with them or yoke up with them.
 - 4. But we cannot isolate ourselves and be good Christians.
 - 5. Doing that only arouses their suspicions more that we are "evildoers."
 - 6. We must be lights in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation.
 - 7. We do that by how we conduct ourselves and how we behave when our lives touch other lives, particularly kindness, patience, and benevolence, along with honesty, sincerity, and true concern for others.
 - 8. We should strive to always be keenly aware of these things in all our conversations and dealings with other people.