

OUR TESTIMONY TO THE WORLD.

1 PETER 2:11—15.

1. The Apostle had a tender love for other Christians. He referred to them as “Dearly beloved...” (2:11a) This was an expression of his love for those to whom he was writing.
2. There should be that kind of love among believers today. Those people were suffering because of their testimony for Jesus Christ.
3. He was writing to them to encourage them in the midst of their persecution. He was able to relate to them because he was in a similar situation. He said, “. . . I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims...”
4. He was saying that “This world is not my home, nor is it your home. We are only here for a short time. This was a greeting of understanding. He knew exactly how they felt.
5. Remember, this world is at odds with those who belong to Christ. In fact, they are going in opposite directions. They have almost nothing common. They live in two different worlds.
6. So, how should we live in a world that is unfriendly to us because of our Identification with Jesus Christ?

We Should:

- a. BE CLEAN.
- b. BE CAREFUL.
- c. BE CONSISTENT.

That is Our Testimony To The World.

A. We Should BE CLEAN.

1. (1 Peter 2:11b) This is a war in which all believers find themselves. It is as old as sin and as up—to—date as the temptation we face every day. The Battleground includes the Lust of the Flesh, the Lust of the Eyes and the Pride of Life.
2. 1 John 2:16 says, “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.” There have been many casualties in this battle.
 - a. Samson yielded to the deceit of Delilah. (Judges 16)
 - b. David yielded to lust while he watched Bathsheba bathe. (2 Sam 11)
3. There have also been many victories.
 - a. Joseph refused to yield to the advances of Potiphar’s wife. (Gen 39)

b. Jesus defeated Satan when He was tempted in the wilderness. (Matt 4)

4. His Weapon in defeating the devil was the Word of God. He answered all three temptations with the words, "IT IS WRITTEN." Heb 4:15 says, "For we have not an High Priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."

5. God has made provision for us to be victorious every time we are faced with temptation. 1. Cor. 10:13 says, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

6. Remember, as Believers, we live in an unfriendly world. Therefore, we must BE CLEAN. That is our Testimony to the World. (11)

B. We Should BE CAREFUL

1. (1 Peter 2:12) There are many spectators in this war who are looking for opportunities to criticize us. There are others who are watching to see if our faith and testimony for Christ is real.

2. They are hoping that we will fail or be defeated so that they can judge it to be false. Our lives are always being inspected by unbelievers.

3. However, we can be confident that, by the Grace of God, we will stand the test. In fact, critical people provide opportunities to prove that our faith is genuine. So, what we do and how we live is very important.

4. We must Be Careful to be absolutely honest and moral for three reasons.

a. We represent Jesus Christ to the world. 2 Cor. 5:20 says that "...We are Ambassadors for Christ. ." which means that we represent Him and His Kingdom on this earth.

b. We should shine as lights in a dark place. Phil 2:15 tells us to "...Be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye SHINE AS LIGHTS in the world." Phil 2:16 says, "Holding forth the word of life.

c. Our light will glorify the Heavenly Father. Jesus said in Matt 5:16, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

5. If we really Love the Lord and the Souls of People, we will Be Careful. Remember, as Believers, we live in an unfriendly world. Therefore, we must BE CAREFUL. That is our Testimony to the World. (12)

C. We Should BE CONSISTENT.

1 . The Apostle was calling for more than a one-day—a-week Christianity. He was saying that it should impact our very lifestyle. (1 Peter 2:13—15) The Christian Message encompasses every area of life.

2. It defines WhoWe Are, What We Do and How We Live.

a. We have the unique Privilege of Being Citizens of Heaven. Phil 3:20 says, “For our conversation is in heaven...” (KJV) However, the NASB, NIV, NKJV all say .our citizenship is in heaven...” NLT says, “But we are citizens of heaven.

b. We are also citizens of earth and are called to show that we are different.

c. We are to submit ourselves to the laws of the land and obey them. We are to respect authority for the Lord’s sake. (1 Peter 2:13—14 KJV) 1 Peter 2:14b says “...to punish all who do wrong and to honor those who do right.” (NLT)

3. It is as we live above reproach that our lives will impact the world for Christ. Remember, as Believers, we live in an unfriendly world. Therefore, we must BE CONSISTENT. That is our Testimony to the World.

4. It is God’s Will that we testify to the world through our lifestyle. 1 Peter 2:15 NLT says, “It is God’s Will that your good lives should SILENCE THOSE WHO MAKE FOOLISH ACCUSATIONS against you.”

5. 1 Peter 2:15 KJV says. We will silence our critics through CLEAN, CAREFUL and CONSISTENT Living. We will influence many who will be Won to Christ by the Testimony of our lifestyle. In reality, it is the Nature of Christ being exhibited in our daily lives.

.6. That is God’s Plan for your life and mine. Our Identification with Christ sets us apart from the world. So, we have a Testimony to the World. Therefore, we should:

a. BE CLEAN. (1 Peter 2:11)

b. BE CAREFUL. (1 Peter 2:12)

c. BE CONSISTENT. (1 Peter 2:13—15)

7. Let’s impact our world with our lives! Let’s let the Life of Christ shine through our lives to the world! Song: ‘Let My Life Be A Light.’