

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

Hope Answers

With Ryan Dawson, Lead Pastor
September 27, 2020



What does it look like to live a “questionable life”?

1 Peter 3:13-18 Now, who will want to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴ But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't worry or be afraid of their threats. ¹⁵ Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. ¹⁶ But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ. ¹⁷ Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong! ¹⁸ Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit.

- **Worship Christ as King.**

v. 15 “Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life.”

Mark 8:34-35 “Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. ³⁵ If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it.”

v. 18 “Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit.”

- **Live in a way that creates curiosity.**

v. 15 “And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.”

- **Share your Christian hope with love and respect.**

v. 16 “But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear.”

Colossians 4:5-6 “Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.”

Our response should be...

- **Clear and logical:** 1 Peter 3:15 “ready to explain it”.

- **Gentle:** 1 Peter 3:16 “do this in a gentle way”

- **Respectful:** 1 Peter 3:16 “do this in a gentle and respectful way”

- **Gracious:** Colossians 4:6 “Let your conversation be gracious”

- **Attractive:** Colossians 4:6 “Let your conversation be gracious and attractive.”

- **Relevant:** Colossians 4:6 “right response for everyone”

Big Idea: Live a “questionable life” with Jesus as King.



**Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.**

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Hope Answers

#5 of 6 - Sept. 27, 2020

1) Take some time to discuss how your IC has been and will live out the Kingdom of Jesus together.

- In what ways have we been living like family recently? How will we live out our family identity in the coming week?
- How have we lived as servants to one another or to our world this past week? What needs or opportunities to serve is God asking us to lean into?
- How have we lived on mission where we live, work, play, or went this past week? Who do we know that needs to hear the good news of Jesus?

2) How did the message resonate with you? What questions or comments did it raise for you?

3) Describe a time when someone asked you about the way you live - a choice you made, or a priority you have? What did you learn from that experience?

4) Read 1 Peter 3:13-18. Describe in your own words what the recipients of this letter were likely experiencing. In what way is their situation similar/different to ours? How does this passage challenge and encourage you today?

5) Reflect on v. 15. What does it mean for “Jesus to be Lord” of our lives? What are the practical implications of this?

6) Read Mark 8:34-35. What is Jesus saying to us in regard to discipleship? What do you need to “give up” today to find true life?

7) Describe some ways that we can live as Christians that create curiosity in others? What can you do as an Impact Community to create more curiosity in others?

8) Read 1 Peter 3:16 and Colossians 4:5-6. What will you say to explain the hope you have in Christ when asked? What should our response look like as we share the hope we have in Christ? Which aspects do you find challenging and why?

9) Take some time to prepare your response by sharing your testimony or the 3 Circles diagram. Review Staycation: Storytime message for more info on how to do this well. Pray together for an opportunity to share your hope this week.



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