



LIVING ON MISSION

GOING WITH THE GOSPEL

“A Hope Worth Sharing”
1 Peter 3:13-17

¹³And who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR FEAR, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED, ¹⁵but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and fear,

1 Peter 3:13-17

¹⁶having a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who disparage your good conduct in Christ will be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing good rather than for doing wrong.

1 Peter 3:13-17

Introduction

A. We exist to glorify God by making disciples through the gospel, in community, on mission.

B. Our series, “Living on Mission,” is designed to help us think through our mission statement and enable us to glorify God by making disciples.

C. In our series we have learned that we must receive Jesus’ ministry, reflect Jesus’ heart, and respond to Jesus’ call.

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D. We have also learned that we are never to stop praying, exercise our faith wisely, and talk graciously, winsomely, and appropriately.

E. We can know and believe all of this and never share the gospel with anyone. You can take courses on evangelism, read books about evangelism, memorize evangelistic presentations, learn how to work the evangelistic cube, and still never share the gospel with anyone.

Introduction

F. How can this be? What's the problem? The heart of the human problem is the problem of the human heart.

G. We talk about what we love, enjoy, treasure, and find hope in. When we love Jesus deeply, our behavior and our conversation will change dramatically.

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H. When you love Jesus with all of your heart, soul, mind, and strength, you will share the hope that is within you.

I. Therefore, one of your pastors' primary responsibilities is to help you love Jesus more passionately. We can't help but talk about what we're passionate about.

Introduction

J. Big Idea: We should always be ready to give a reason for the hope that is within us.

K. How can we be faithful witnesses for Christ as we go about our daily routine?

I. Demonstrate Practical Righteousness (3:13-14a)

¹³And who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their fear, and do not be troubled,

1 Peter 3:13-14

I. Demonstrate Practical Righteousness (3:13-14a)

A. Peter has repeatedly emphasized the importance of being known for practical acts of righteousness. (2:12; 3:1, 8-9)

B. How you live matters. Our witness involves more than good deeds, but it definitely includes good deeds.

C. Have a passion for good deeds (3:13). Be zealous for what is good. Pursue a life that makes much of Christ.

I. Demonstrate Practical Righteousness (3:13-14a)

D. As you live for Christ and demonstrate practical righteousness, you must be prepared to suffer for the sake of righteousness (3:13-14a).

1. Who is there to harm you? Evil people. But Peter is asking the question in an ultimate sense here.

2. The pain we may endure is only temporary.

I. Demonstrate Practical Righteousness (3:13-14a)

3. Ultimately our persecutors will not prevail in an eternal sense because “God is for us” (Romans 8:31). God will vindicate His people on the last day.

4. Sometimes your righteous deeds will be used to win people over (2:12; 3:1), but sometimes people will be turned off and even become aggressive and seek to harm you.

I. Demonstrate Practical Righteousness (3:13-14a)

E. Peter instructs us to consider ourselves blessed if we suffer for the sake of righteousness (3:14a). Check out Jesus’ words in Matthew 5:10-12. Check out Peter and the apostles’ response to being persecuted in Acts 5:29, 41-42.

I. Demonstrate Practical Righteousness (3:13-14a)

F. Live a life of practical righteousness. Be a good neighbor, a good friend, a good employee. Live to bless others. Surprise people with acts of kindness and goodness.

II. Develop a Christ-Centered Reverence (3:14b-15a)

¹⁴But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their fear, and do not be troubled, ¹⁵but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and fear,

1 Peter 3:14-15

II. Develop a Christ-Centered Reverence (3:14b-15a)

A. We are to live in such a way that we provoke questions from unbelievers by living under the lordship of Christ and displaying the fruit of the Spirit in our everyday lives.

B. Even when you suffer for doing good, don't fear people. How do you avoid the fear of man? You fear Jesus more (Luke 12:4-7).

⁴“But I say to you, My friends, do not fear those who kill the body and after that have no more that they can do. ⁵But I will show you whom to fear: fear the One who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him! ⁶Are not five sparrows sold for two assaria? Yet not one of them is forgotten before God. ⁷Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.

Luke 12:4-7

II. Develop a Christ-Centered Reverence (3:14b-15a)

**C. “Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts.”
You reverence Christ as Lord in everything
you do.**

**D. In 3:15 Peter alludes to Isaiah 8:11-13. “Just
as Judah had enemies in the days of Ahaz, so
the Petrine readers faced opponents in their
day. Just as Judah was tempted to fear their
foes, so the Petrine readers were liable to fear
what their persecutors might do to them”
(Tom Schreiner).**

II. Develop a Christ-Centered Reverence (3:14b-15a)

**E. “Hence, the words of Isaiah still spoke to
Peter’s day. Believers are not to fear the
suffering unbelievers might administer to
them. They are to trust in the Lord, believing
that he will vindicate his own”
(Tom Schreiner).**

**F. We are commanded as believers to sanctify
or set Christ apart as Lord in our hearts.**

II. Develop a Christ-Centered Reverence (3:14b-15a)

G. “We should not understand the heart as our inner and private lives, which are inaccessible to others. The heart is the origin of human behavior and from it flows everything people do” (Tom Schreiner).

H. Sanctifying Christ as Lord in our hearts is not merely a private matter but will be evident to all when believers suffer for their faith.

II. Develop a Christ-Centered Reverence (3:14b-15a)

I. The inner and outer life are inseparable. What happens within will inevitably be displayed to all, especially when suffering is involved.

J. We are to reverence Christ as Lord in our hearts.

III. Display Daily Readiness (3:15b-17)

¹⁵but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and fear, ¹⁶having a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who disparage your good conduct in Christ will be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing good rather than for doing wrong.

1 Peter 3:15-17

III. Display Daily Readiness (3:15b-17)

A. Our subject is hope (3:15b).

- 1. We must be ready (prepared) to answer unbelievers' spontaneous questions in informal circumstances.**
- 2. We are "to make a defense." "Defense" is the word apologia (a reasonable explanation).**
- 3. In ordinary conversation tell people why you have hope in Christ.**

III. Display Daily Readiness (3:15b-17)

4. The truth of the gospel is a public truth that can be defended in the public arena.

5. Every believer should grasp the essentials of the Christian faith and be able to explain to others why they think the Christian faith is true.

6. Biblical hope is not wishful thinking. It is confident assurance. Biblical hope is not fingers crossed but rather thumbs up!

III. Display Daily Readiness (3:15b-17)

7. When life hurts and dreams fade, we can still abound in hope because of what God has done in Christ for us and has for us in Christ.

III. Display Daily Readiness (3:15b-17)

**B. Our tone is characterized by gentleness
(3:15c).**

- 1. We are not to share our hope with haughtiness but gentleness.**
- 2. We do not share our hope with ugly defensiveness but with humble fear (reverence).**

III. Display Daily Readiness (3:15b-17)

- 3. We speak with grace. Christ in you makes you gentle, patient, and approachable.**

III. Display Daily Readiness (3:15b-17)

C. Our goal is faithfulness (3:16-17)

- 1. We are to maintain a good conscience when responding to unbelievers.**
- 2. How? Live a faithful life in the midst of trial and persecution. Answer their questions with the right content and tone.**

III. Display Daily Readiness (3:15b-17)

- 3. "Will be put to shame." At the judgment the faithful will not be shamed. People who have rejected Christ will be shamed.**

D. Be ready to respond. Live on mission faithfully each day God grants you.

Conclusion

A. We should always be ready to give a reason for the hope that is within us.

B. Matthew 9:36-38

³⁶And seeing the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and downcast like sheep without a shepherd.

³⁷Then He *said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

³⁸Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

Matthew 9:36-38

Conclusion

A. We should always be ready to give a reason for the hope that is within us.

B. Matthew 9:36-38

C. What is your next step you need to take to be obedient to the Lord?

D. The Gospel Definition

The gospel is the good news that the just and gracious God of the universe looked upon hopelessly sinful people and sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, God in human flesh, to bear His wrath against sin on the cross and to show His power over sin in the resurrection so that everyone who turns from their sin (repentance) and believes in Him (faith) will be reconciled to God forever.