

March 10, 2024

The Bridge Bible Fellowship

Pastor Paul S. Brown

1 Peter 2:11-12

“Stand Up & Stand Out”
“The Beauty of Holiness” – Part 6

- I. Foundation: God’s Provision of Salvation (1:1-12)
- II. Exhortation: Our Response to So Great a Salvation (1:13-5:14)
 - A. Sanctification (1:13-2:12) – The Beauty of Holiness
 - 1. Hope (13)
 - 2. Holiness (14-16)
 - 3. Fear / Reverence / Awe (1:17-21)
 - 4. Love (1:22-25)
 - 5. Crave the Word (2:1-3)
 - 6. Grow Up Together in Him (2:4-10)
 - 7. _____ (2:11-12)
 - a. What (11b-12a) – “Beloved, I urge you ... to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles,”

 - b. How (11a) – “as aliens and strangers”

 - c. Why (12b) – “so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe *them*, glorify God in the day of visitation.”

So What?

Discussion & Application:

1. Share something specific that you have learned recently in your personal reading of God's Word. Discuss obstacles to being in the Word of God every day and how you overcome them.
2. Go back over **1 Peter 2:4-10** and discuss two things: 1) WHO Peter says Jesus IS and WHAT Jesus accomplished for us; 2) WHO Peter says we ARE in Christ (identity) and WHAT we are supposed to do (activity). Share some practical ways we can remind ourselves of these truths and live them out.
3. Discuss honestly and transparently if Jesus truly is **PRECIOUS** to you like He is to God. What else competes for first place with Jesus in your life? How might seeing Jesus as the most precious person in your life help you when facing persecution and suffering?
4. What is **Lifestyle Evangelism**? How might regularly sharing our faith in Jesus Christ with others be a powerful motivator to be holy? Discuss a time you did not share the gospel with someone because you had sin in your lifestyle. What could / should you have done in that moment? What could / should you have done going forward? Are there any sins in your life right now that hinder you from boldly telling others about Jesus and His power to save them and change them from the inside out?
5. What are **fleshly lusts**? List specific ones in the Bible. How is it that they **wage war with our souls**? What happens if we forget that we are soldiers in a spiritual / moral war 24/7?
6. What might "**excellent behavior**" look like:
 - In your attitudes / body language
 - In your speech
 - In your home
 - In your neighborhood
 - At work
 - At church
7. What are **aliens and strangers**? How should citizens of heaven behave when they go to a sinful country as aliens and strangers?
8. Give some examples of **slander** that might be shared about Christians and/or Churches in America today. When we are striving to live holy lives, why might unsaved people see it as evil?
9. In v. 12, the words "**excellent**" and "**good**" (same Greek word) mean a positive moral quality. Our overall lifestyle and our specific actions are to be that way. Think about that and discuss what the phrase "**Walk the Talk**" means. Is there a general area or specific behavior in your life where that is difficult? Ask how others have grown in holiness in those areas. Discuss how knowing that unsaved people are **observing** you gives you motivation to grow.
10. What does it mean that people who are slandering us will **glorify God in the day of visitation**? What and when is the day of visitation? How does that motivate you to be holy in your lifestyle evangelism?
11. **3 Month / 90-Day Challenge!** Read the whole Bible in 90 days. Here is a daily guide that Pastor Paul is using: <https://www.thebrooknetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/BibleIn90Days.pdf>
12. **Memorize 1 Peter 2:11-12.** Ask the Lord to use you to help the spiritual house at The Bridge become more holy and bear more fruit both locally and globally for His glory. **Pray for and invite family & friends to join us for Good Friday and/or Easter.**