

March 24, 2024  
*To Be or Not to Be Good*  
***The Church in the World Series***

Text: Selected Scripture in 1 Peter

**Introduction: How would you describe a good person?**

Share insights from online search – attached.

*How could a person go wrong if he/she lived by these guidelines?*

Jesus is the best example of a good person that I can think of.

Peter thought so, too.

Read **1 Peter 2:20b-24**.

Despite Christ's life was filled with good deeds and obedience to His Father, He suffered unjustly in this world.

It seems the churches were also suffering, despite doing good, in the first century. This suffering was described as *commendable* and was a *calling to follow in the steps of Jesus*.

Jesus did only His Father's will, spoke only truth, did not retaliate or threaten, placed His life in His Father's hands.

Peter encouraged these Christians to live honorably among the unbelievers, even though he knew that their good would be evil spoken of. Read **1 Peter 2:12**. God's glory would win out!

Peter further wrote – **1 Peter 2:15**.

Definitely Peter was calling these parishioners to live good lives.

Yet he did not deny that the evil world could or would lash out at Christ's good people. Read **1 Peter 3:13-17**.

- They were to use these opportunities of suffering to share Jesus with their abusers.
- They were to serve God with a pure conscience.
- They were to know that sometimes suffering in this way fits into God's will.

Regardless of suffering, they were not to stop living good lives.

**1 Peter 4:19**

While considering this, I found myself asking, *Why do people attack others who are doing good?*

People can be labeled a goody-goody or a goody two-shoes.

Used to describe someone who is uncommonly good.

This expression can be used to describe someone who merely acts like a good person, or someone who is a good person but who makes others feel inadequate in comparison.

Could be a person who always behaves well but perhaps has a disapproving attitude to people who do not.

A virtuous or well-behaved person living in a showy way that is designed to impress.

An exceedingly or haughtily prudish, self-righteous, or rigidly moral person; someone who conforms inflexibly to the rules or the law.

I'm pretty sure this is *not* what Peter was encouraging.

Our answer to the question about attacks may be found in **John 3:19-21**. We now are light in this dark world, and our good deeds may just shed too much light, exposing what others may not want to be seen.

In our remaining time this morning, let's delve into Peter's definition of living a good life. A good life must include one's relationship with God, one's interactions with all people, and one's life in His Church.

*To Be or Not to Be Good*

**I. Relating with God.**

A. Discipline your mind as to control your actions.

**1 Peter 1:13; 2:2**

Pull in all the loose ends of one's thinking, by rejecting the hindrances of the world.

**Psalms 119:11** *Your word have I hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.*

B. Conduct your life with reverence toward God.

**1 Peter 1:17**

*If you call on the Father* ~ if you identify as a Christian, you will honor God always.

C. Offer spiritual sacrifices to God. **1 Peter 2:5**

Acknowledge Him through prayer and song; any act done in His name.

D. Realize the times at hand and pray. 1 Peter 4:7

Prayer is drawing close to God and depending on Him.

## II. Interacting with Our World.

A. Forsake former lusts that displease God.

1 Peter 1:14; 2:1, 11; 4:2-4

And yes, it is natural that friends and acquaintances may notice.

B. Live a holy life unlike, or apart from, the world.

1 Peter 1:15; 3:10-12 (Psalm 34:12-16)

C. Exalt God by sharing your testimony. 1 Peter 2:9b

D. Submit to the laws and authorities in the land.

1 Peter 2:13; 2:17

## III. Living as His Church.

A. Love one another fervently. 1 Peter 1:22; 4:8

B. Live in harmony, showing compassion, courtesy, and kindness. 1 Peter 3:8

C. Be hospitable (without grumbling.) 1 Peter 4:9

D. Use your spiritual gifts to minister to others.

1 Peter 4:10

*So What?* If we live in a good way in this life, and suffer for it...

We are told to:

1. Rejoice, knowing that reward will be ours in eternity.

1 Peter 4:13

2. Glorify God, not being ashamed or downhearted.

1 Peter 4:16

Questions to Ponder Through the Week  
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1. Read 1 Peter 2:20-24. How can suffering for doing good be commendable? Why would God call Christ followers to suffer in this life? On what grounds did Jesus suffer? For what may we suffer?

2. Read 1 Peter 3:13-17. Do these verses encourage or discourage you? What does it mean to *suffer for righteousness' sake*? How do you *set apart Christ as Lord* in your life? What are some ways to live a life of hope before the world?

3. We can't be good if we are not in right relationship with God.
- a. How do you discipline your mind so that you act as you should?
  - b. In what ways do you honor or show reverence for God?
  - c. List practical ways you can offer a sacrifice to God.
  - d. Why might we be prone to pray more as Jesus' return gets closer?

4. Forsaking sin and walking in newness of life should describe every Christian. Does it? Why or why not? How effective will be one's testimony if this is not true in their life? How does being a law-abiding citizen impact one's Christian testimony?

5. The Church can't escape God's desire for His Church. Peter noted love, harmony, hospitality, and ministry to each other as must-dos for the church. What are some practical ways you strive to live these out at Comins Community Church or your church?

Sermon Topic for March 31:

***Resurrection Sunday!***

You're invited to spend next Sunday morning with your Comins Community Church family. Sunrise Service is at 7:00 A.M., breakfast is at 8:00, and Worship Service begins at 9:30. Read the account of Christ's death and resurrection this week ~ Matthew 26-26; Mark 14-16; Luke 22-24; or John 18-20. Come prepared to worship Christ, the Risen Lord!