

Grounded in Hope

1 Peter 3:13-18 Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? 14 But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, *you are* blessed. AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED, 15 but 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 reverence; 16 and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame. 17 For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong. 18 For Christ also died for sins once for all, *the* just for *the* unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.

1. _____ to Christ as Lord.

1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts.

- When's the last time you used the word sanctify?
- It comes from a Greek word that means to make holy.
- It literally means to set apart.
- The English word saint means one who is set apart.

- **Submitting to Christ's Lordship is the beginning point of _____.**

Romans 10:9-10 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus *as* Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation

- **Submitting to Christ's Lordship is the daily process of _____.**

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Luke 6:46 Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?

2. Be ready to make a _____ of your faith.

1 Peter 3:15 But 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 reverence.

- Being ready means we are prepared to _____.

<https://billygraham.org/story/sharing-your-faith-101/>

- Being ready means we are equipped to meet people where they are on their spiritual journey.

Two key qualifiers:

Proverbs 15:1 “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”

Consider these resources:

- Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis
- The Reason Why Faith Makes Sense – Mark Mittelberg
- The Case for Christ – Lee Strobel

3. Keep a _____.

1 Peter 3:16 and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.

Proverbs 22:1 A *good* name is to be more desired than great wealth, favor is better than silver and gold.

Ephesians 4:25-32 Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE *of you* WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another. 26 BE ANGRY, AND *yet* DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and do not give the devil an opportunity. 28 He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have *something* to share with one who has need. 29 Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such *a word* as is good for edification according to the need *of the moment*, so that it will give grace to those who hear. 30 Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.