

THE CHALLENGE

BE _____ OF YOUR

1. Don't ignore that twinge in your conscience.
2. Identify the right thing to do and do that instead.
3. Enjoy the benefits of a clear conscience:
not suffering unpleasant consequences;
having your reputation defend you; and
knowing every accusation is either unfounded or forgiven.

ON YOUR OWN

Answer these questions this week to reflect and go deeper.
TALK IT OVER with friends right now, using the
questions highlighted in **bold**.

1. **Give some examples of good things done that are usually rewarded.**
2. **What are some examples of good things done that might not be rewarded immediately?**
3. **Review 1 Peter 3:16-18. How is Christ's suffering a pattern for us to follow?**
4. Pray and ask the Lord to show you what you need to *know* and what you need to *do* in response to what you've heard and read this week. Write here what comes to mind. Share your answer with your group if appropriate.

IN YOUR GROUP

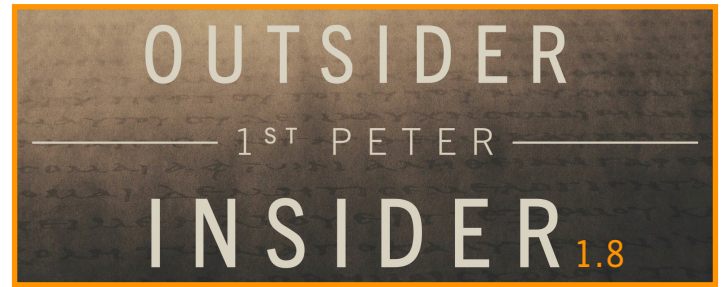
In your Cornerstone Community group this week, discuss your answers to the ON YOUR OWN questions. In a one-hour online group session, you might spend a 10-15 minutes catching up, 40 minutes talking through the discussion questions above, and 15-20 minutes praying for one another and planning ways the group can meet needs and serve others.

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Mail: PO Box 1011, Concord, NH 03302-1011

Voice or Text: 603-225-2550

Email: CONTACTUS@CORNERSTONENH.ORG



YOUR NAME: _____ 10/02-03/2021

WATCH, LISTEN & MORE AT
CORNERSTONENH.ORG

Growth Guide

FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2021

CONNECT AT CORNERSTONE

We want to encourage, inform, and connect with you!
Go to CornerstoneNH.org and click on the New Here?
link. (You can also text NEW to 603-225-2550.)

LIFE. BETTER.

*FOLLOWING JESUS MAKES LIFE BETTER
AND MAKES YOU BETTER AT LIFE.*

TODAY'S MESSAGE SOONER OR LATER

TODAY: JUSTICE • 1 PETER 3:13-22

THE BOTTOM LINE

**DOING THE _____ THING WILL
ULTIMATELY BE _____**

But even if you suffer for doing what is right God will
reward you for it. – 1 Peter 3:14a NLT

WE ARE DIFFERENT AND WE SHOULD SHOW IT

WE ARE _____ INSIDERS

∴ ELECT ∴

We've been selected for service.

∴

∴

This world is not our home.

∴ SCATTERED ∴

We're dispersed for a purpose.

WE SHOW THE WORLD WHAT GOD IS LIKE

Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors.

– 1 Peter 2:12 NLT

The “proper” life is an “exemplary life” (The Message). Although Peter is writing to both Jewish & Gentile believers, he encourages them to live lives above reproach “among the Gentiles,” showing his perspective that Jesus’ followers are now a part of the people of God regardless of their birth or cultural heritage.

So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

– Genesis 1:27 NLT

GOD DOES GOOD TO (BLESSES) THE EVIL & THE GOOD

Don’t repay evil for evil. Don’t retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will grant you his blessing.

– 1 Peter 3:9 NLT

Here Peter is echoing Jesus’ preaching. See Matthew 5:44-45 & Matthew 5:11-12a.

SOONER OR LATER, RIGHT WILL BE REWARDED

DOING _____ HAS A WAY OF AVOIDING
_____ CONSEQUENCES

Now, who will want to harm you if you are eager to do good?

– 1 Peter 3:13 NLT

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.

– 1 Peter 3:14 NLT

Compare this to Peter’s earlier exhortation to wives with unbelieving husbands: “... do what is right without fear of what your husbands might do.” (3:6 NLT) Peter is prescribing for Jesus’ followers male and female neither milquetoast-esque subservience nor obnoxious obstinance, but rather humble boldness in doing what is right.

DOING _____ MAKES YOU A
COMPELLING _____

but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts – 1 Peter 3:15a NASB

To sanctify something or someone is to set it aside for special treatment or a special purpose. Christ is set apart by his followers as the ultimate authority to reverence and obey.

And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. – 1 Peter 3:15b NLT

But do this in a gentle and respectful way.
Keep your conscience clear. – 1 Peter 3:16a NLT

The conscience must be tuned to God’s Spirit by God’s Word and kept sensitive by obedience, otherwise it may become untrustworthy due to ignorance and misuse. See 1 Corinthians 4:3-5 and 1 Timothy 4:2.

Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ.

– 1 Peter 3:16b NLT

Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong! – 1 Peter 3:17 NLT

– FOLLOWING JESUS’ EXAMPLE

Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God.

– 1 Peter 3:18a NLT

Saying “YES!” to Jesus? Text **YES** to **603-225-2550**

Let us celebrate your decision & resource you for your new life in Christ.

He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit.

– 1 Peter 3:18b NLT

– PARALLELING NOAH’S EXPERIENCE

He went and proclaimed God’s salvation to earlier generations who ended up in the prison of judgment because they wouldn’t listen. – 1 Peter 3:19-20 MSG

Here Peter is pointing out the parallels in his audience’s experience with Noah’s experience, and in the process assures them of God’s ultimate justice and their ultimate salvation as was the case with Noah. After saying Jesus suffered a physical death, but was raised to life in or by the Spirit, Peter states that Christ was preaching long ago by the Spirit (or spiritually) to the people of Noah’s day through Noah’s actions and experience. Like Noah, Peter’s audience is a righteous minority among a hostile majority. As in Noah’s day, judgement was imminent. As in Noah’s day, a way to escape judgement has been provided for those who will take it. And as with Noah, salvation will come as they go through the water; the flood for Noah, and baptism for believers.

FOLLOWING _____ SETS YOUR
CONSCIENCE _____

The waters of baptism do that for you, not by washing away dirt from your skin but by presenting you through Jesus’ resurrection before God with a clear conscience.

– 1 Peter 3:21 MSG

Verse 21 makes clear that the power of baptism (and by inference communion) is not in its physical consequence but the spiritual realities which it represents: we are the beneficiaries of the salvation that was secured through Jesus’ death and resurrection on the cross.

Now Christ has gone to heaven. He is seated in the place of honor next to God, and all the angels and authorities and powers accept his authority. – 1 Peter 3:22 NLT