



Ken Letson, Pastor
October 24, 2021

Message Series
“When the Going Gets Tough...”

“How in the World to Be a Christian”

1 Peter 2:11-25

¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation. ¹³ Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, ¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. ¹⁵ For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. ¹⁶ Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. ¹⁷ Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

¹⁸ Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. ¹⁹ For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Fundamental truth:

“keep your behavior excellent” (NASB); “live such good lives among the pagans” (NIV)

The key question (and answer):

What does it really mean to be a “Christian”?

To live out my Christianity, I must realize...

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Following ‘In His Steps’

(How to be like Jesus...in the world)

1. _____ . (vs. 11-12)

“Live such good lives among the pagans that...they may see your good deeds and glory God on the day he visits us.” (v. 12, NIV)

2. _____ . (vs. 13-17)

“Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution...” (v. 13)

“...submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh.” (v. 18, NIV)

3. _____ . (vs. 18-20)

“For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of the Lord.” (v. 20)

4. _____ . (vs. 21-25)

“When he was reviled he...continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.” (v. 23)