

A Call to Good Citizenship

1 Peter 2:13-17

INTRODUCTION

Peter says in verse 12, live such good lives, such beautiful lives, and then he defines what he means with the phrase, “good deeds”. And the word he uses that same Greek word again, so you could say: *Live beautiful lives by doing beautiful deeds.*

And we began to ask ourselves the question, “What does it mean to do ‘good works’, these beautiful deeds?” And what we’re about to see now in the next several chapters is that it is all about RELATIONSHIPS.

My dad is a very wise man and I remember him saying to me one time. *Jim you can IMPRESS people from a distance, but you can only IMPACT them up close.* That has always stayed with me.

We are to live a beautiful life. And Peter now describes what it looks like to live a beautiful life, to live a life full of good deeds. To do these good deeds within the context of several different relationships.

To live a beautiful life in our relationship first and foremost to God, but as we relate to the government, to the community at large, in the workplace, at home, and in the church. Finally, Peter describes what it looks like to live a beautiful under persecution. That’s where we’re going these next several weeks.

How do we bring the character of Christ to the various relationships we have with others—this way (up), this way (sideways), and this way (down). And in every direction, we see this emphasis in 1 Peter on the humility and gentleness and servanthood of Christ.

Let’s begin...

¹³ *Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human authority...*

...: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, ¹⁴ or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.

Related Text: Romans 13:1-7

Group Discussion

¹⁵ For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people.

What is some of the ignorant talk of foolish people? What are some of the misconceptions that the world has against us?

What is the good that we can intentionally do to silence this ignorant talk?

¹⁶ Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves.

Group Prayer

¹⁷ Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.