

# Living a Life That Honors God

Lessons  
from the  
First  
Letter  
of the  
Apostle  
Peter

  
**Bib**word

## Living a Life That Honors God

**This is a short, three-day version of a YouVersion  
Reading Plan by GlobalRize.org**

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In the apostle Peter's first letter to Christians, he discusses the right attitude toward other people, the position of husband and wife within marriage, and dealing with suffering. This reading plan covers chapters 2 and 3 of Peter's letter.

# Day 1: Sinful Words and Attitudes

## Bible References:

1 Peter 2:1

James 3

Being a Christian should show in all of our life, even in the little details. In today's verse, Peter mentions malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander. These are all sins that might not immediately attract attention. They are often hidden "beneath the surface." They are not as obvious as murder, for example. But that does not make them any less harmful. The apostle James explains: "Where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice." And, "the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness [...] setting on fire the entire course of life."

These sinful words and attitudes are destructive in our relationships with others, and they are not fitting for Christians whose hearts have been cleansed by Jesus' blood. Jesus says that what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart; "Out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks" (Luke 6:45). So, if our hearts have been washed clean from sin, they should no longer produce slander. Instead, Jesus' disciples are called to be "wise as serpents and innocent as doves" (Matthew 10:16). Their attitude should be upright and self-controlled.

Are your words loving and upright, or are they envious and deceptive?

## Day 2: Being a Witness by Doing Good

### Bible References:

1 Peter 2:15

Titus 2:7-14

We should always be prepared to give an answer to anyone who asks us for a reason for our hope and faith and love (1 Peter 3:15). But sometimes discussions don't help. Our words won't always convince people of the truth. In such cases, it makes no sense to keep "nagging". But the apostle Peter mentions another option: we should "put to silence the ignorance of foolish people" by doing good. People should have nothing evil to say about us, but instead see our good works. That will be a powerful testimony of God's love at work in us.

The Heidelberg Catechism, a classical instruction in the Christian faith, phrases this idea as follows: "... that we so order our whole life, our thoughts, words, and deeds, that Your Name may not be blasphemed, but honored and praised on our account" (Lord's Day 47, question 122).

If we want to be a witness of the faith, we should not only focus on our words but also on our own behavior in daily life. Our lifestyle can support or damage our testimony. It can attract people or turn them away.

Are you aware that people are watching you? Does that influence your behavior?

## Day 3: Having the Right Attitude Toward God and Other People

### Bible References:

1 Peter 2:17

Genesis 9:5-6

Romans 12:9-13

The apostle Peter gives a series of short exhortations about our attitude toward different groups of people and toward God. The first exhortation makes clear that all people are worthy of honor. They were all created in the image of God and should be treated with respect. This does not depend on someone's social position, religion, political affiliation, and so on. It applies to everyone.

This command to "honor" is repeated for the emperor or king, which probably does not refer to him personally (since that would already be covered by the first exhortation concerning "everyone"), but to his position as a ruler. In that sense, governments should be honored and obeyed especially, as Peter has argued earlier in his letter.

Then there is the exhortation to "love the brotherhood". Our relationship with fellow believers goes deeper than our relationship to "everyone", since there is a spiritual unity. They are often called "beloved brothers and sisters".

Finally, we should "fear God". His position is unique. Only He is worthy of our full devotion. Only He should be our heart's desire. We should love Him above everything else.

Do you find any of these exhortations particularly hard to take? If so, why?

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