

How?

By being ready always to give a reason for your hope.

By doing so with humility, respect, and a good conscience.

Why?

by submitting to God’s will

‘for it is better to suffer for doing good...’

‘...if that should be God’s will...’

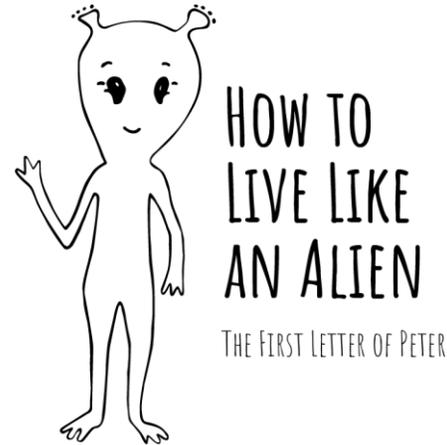
(lit.)...if the will of God wills (vb.) it...

ESV **1 Peter 2:15** For this is **the will of God**, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.

ESV **1 Peter 3:17** For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be **God’s will**, than for doing evil.

ESV **1 Peter 4:2** so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for **the will of God**.

ESV **1 Peter 4:19** Therefore let those who suffer according to **God’s will** entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.



Sunday, August 28, 2022

How to Live Like an Alien

The First Letter of Peter

No. 19 – Keeping Our Conduct Honorable as God’s People, pt. 8

1 Peter 3:13-17

Danny Capon, *Pastor*

Review

The apostle Peter, writing to Christians who are both *elect* and *exiles*, encourages them to live faithfully...

- Praising God for Our Salvation (1:3-12)
- Setting Our Hope on God (1:13-21)
- Growing in God’s Word (1:22-2:3)
- Being Built Up as a Spiritual House (2:4-8, 9-10)
- Keeping Our Conduct Honorable as God’s People (2:9-10, 11-12)
 - Being Subject as Citizens to Human Authorities (2:13-17)
 - Being Subject as Servants to Our Masters (2:18-25)
 - Being Subject as Wives to Their Husbands (3:1-6)
 - Being Considerate as Husbands to Their Wives (3:7)
 - Being Considerate as Believers to Each Other (3:8-12)

No. 19 – Keeping Our Conduct Honorable, pt. 8 (continued)

1 Peter 3:13-17

ESV **1 Peter 3:** ¹³ Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for doing evil.

How to Live Like an Alien (“sojourners” and “exiles,” 2:11)...

> ...means knowing who we are (“God’s people,” 2:9-10) and living our lives among unbelievers accordingly (“abstaining” from fleshly passions and “keeping” honorable conduct, 2:11-12)...

- > ...which includes being subject to human authorities...
 - > ...like government ("kings" and "governors," 2:13-17)...
 - > ...and masters (household despots, 2:18-25)...
 - > ...and husbands (3:1-7)
 - > ...and each other (3:8-12)

Keeping our conduct honorable as God's people...

We must be committed to doing good no matter what (3:13-17)

Doing good no matter what...

What does it mean for *you* to be committed to doing good no matter what at home, with relatives, in school, at work, toward neighbors, in the community?

'Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good... But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed' (vv. 13-14)

Why?

because, in general, no one's going to harm you if you do good...

because, even if you suffer, it'll be better if you do good...

How?

by being zealous for the good

of the good

zealot (a noun, not a verb)

by not fearing those who are fearful

fear, troubled (stirred up)

Our fear impacts our doing.

Our logic impacts our fear.

have no fear of them...

ESV **Isaiah 8:11** For the LORD spoke thus to me with his strong hand upon me, and warned me not to walk in the way of this people, saying: ¹² "Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and **do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread.** ¹³ But the LORD of hosts, him you shall regard as holy. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.

We tend to fear people.

People can be very scary.

Why?

They cannot ultimately 'harm' you.

They will ultimately be 'put to shame.'

How?

by sanctifying Christ in our hearts

'but...'

'...in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy...'

(lit.)...**but you** (pl.) **sanctify** (vb. set apart, make holy, consecrate, regard as holy) **lord the Christ in your** (pl.) **hearts...**

ESV **Isaiah 8:11** For the LORD spoke thus to me with his strong hand upon me, and warned me not to walk in the way of this people, saying: ¹² "Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread. ¹³ **But the LORD** of hosts, him **you shall regard as holy.** Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.

ESV **Numbers 20:11** And Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock with his staff twice, and water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their livestock. ¹² And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe in me, to uphold me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them." ¹³ These are the waters of Meribah, where the people of Israel quarreled with the LORD, and through them he showed himself holy. (See also, Numbers 27:14; Deuteronomy 32:51)

This is *instead* of fearing them.

This is an at-the-core-of-who-you-are recognition of Christ's worth.