

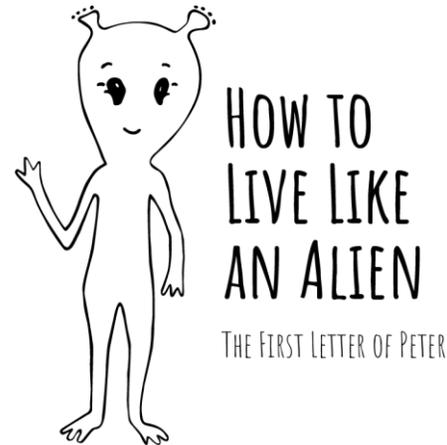
Sunday, August 21, 2022

**How to Live Like an Alien**  
The First Letter of Peter

**No. 18 – 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. 18 – Keeping Our Conduct Honorable, pt. 8

**1 Peter 3:13-17**

ESV **1 Peter 3:** <sup>13</sup> Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, <sup>15</sup> 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; <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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)

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

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

**doing good...**

*What is 'good'?*

'good' (See 2:18; 3:10, 11, 13, 16, 21; also, 2:14, 15, 20; 3:6, 17; 4:19)

'conduct' (See 1:15, 18; 2:12; 3:1, 2, 16; also, 1:17)

- It's a progressive, intentional pursuit (v. 13)
- It's thoroughly consistent with righteousness (v. 14)
- It's an attitude and actions that supports the wellbeing of one's conscience (vv. 15-16)
- It's the observable quality of the way one lives their life (vv. 16-17)

**no matter what...**

**'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)

In other words, we must be committed to doing good no matter what...

**Why?**

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

*How should we understand Peter's question (v. 13)?*

I won't ever be harmed?

I can't be ultimately harmed?

As a general rule, I won't be harmed?

*How do you define 'harm'?*

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

*What does Peter mean by 'better'?*

'better' (v. 17)

- It's better because this is, in part, the means by which others will be shamed (v. 16)
- It's better because this is, in part, the path to a good conscience (v. 16)
- It's better because this is, in part, the evidence of the Lordship of Christ in your life (v. 15)
- It's better because this is, in part, the way of blessing (v. 14)

'blessed' (v. 14)

**How?**

**by being zealous for the good**

**by not fearing those who are fearful  
by sanctifying Christ in our hearts  
by submitting to God's will**