

The Godly Pursuit of the Good Life, Part 2

1 Peter 3:13-17



1 Peter: Holy Living in a Hostile Land

“...who committed no sin, nor was any deceit in His mouth, and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness for by His wounds you were healed.” (1 Peter 2:22-24)

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Because God loves us and desires us to **wisely** fight the power of earthly fears, He tells us things like this:

“The fear of the Lord leads to life, so that one may sleep satisfied, untouched by evil.” (Proverbs 19:23)

“The reward of humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, honor, and life.” (Proverbs 22:4)

“By the fear of the Lord one keeps away from evil.” (Proverbs 16:6)

“The fear of the Lord is to hate evil.” (Proverbs 8:13)

*“Do not let your heart be troubled;
believe in God, believe also in Me.”*

(John 14:1)

In verses 14-16, Peter gives us **three directives** aimed at keeping our hearts **zealously committed** to doing God's good and to **fighting our fears** that pull us into ourselves and away from others.

I. Trust the Character of Christ (1 Peter 3:14)

- *Be courageous*

I. Trust the Character of Christ

II. Set Christ Apart as Lord (1 Peter 3:15)

- *Be fearful*

I. Trust the Character of Christ

II. **Set Christ Apart as Lord** (1 Peter 3:15)

“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21)

What we treasure/desire most in our heart will define the way we live.

Our behavior is our heart in motion.

I. Trust the Character of Christ

II. Set Christ Apart as Lord (1 Peter 3:15)

“The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good [holy lifestyle]; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil [unholy lifestyle]; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.” (Luke 6:45)

I. Trust the Character of Christ

II. Set Christ Apart as Lord (1 Peter 3:15)

“And you are not to fear what they fear or be in dread of it.”

I. Trust the Character of Christ

II. **Set Christ Apart as Lord** (1 Peter 3:15)

“And you are not to fear what they fear or be in dread of it. It is the Lord of hosts whom you should regard as holy. And He shall be your fear, and He shall be your dread. Then He shall become a sanctuary...” (Isaiah 8:12b-14)

I. Trust the Character of Christ

II. **Set Christ Apart as Lord (1 Peter 3:15)**

This is a **growing God-awareness**, a **God-consciousness**, a fear-of-the-Lord awareness which governs your life at every moment.

Jesus is with you, and you are with Jesus in mind, body, heart, soul, and **conscience**.

I. Trust the Character of Christ

II. Set Christ Apart as Lord

III. Keep a Clean Conscience in Christ (1 Peter 3:16)

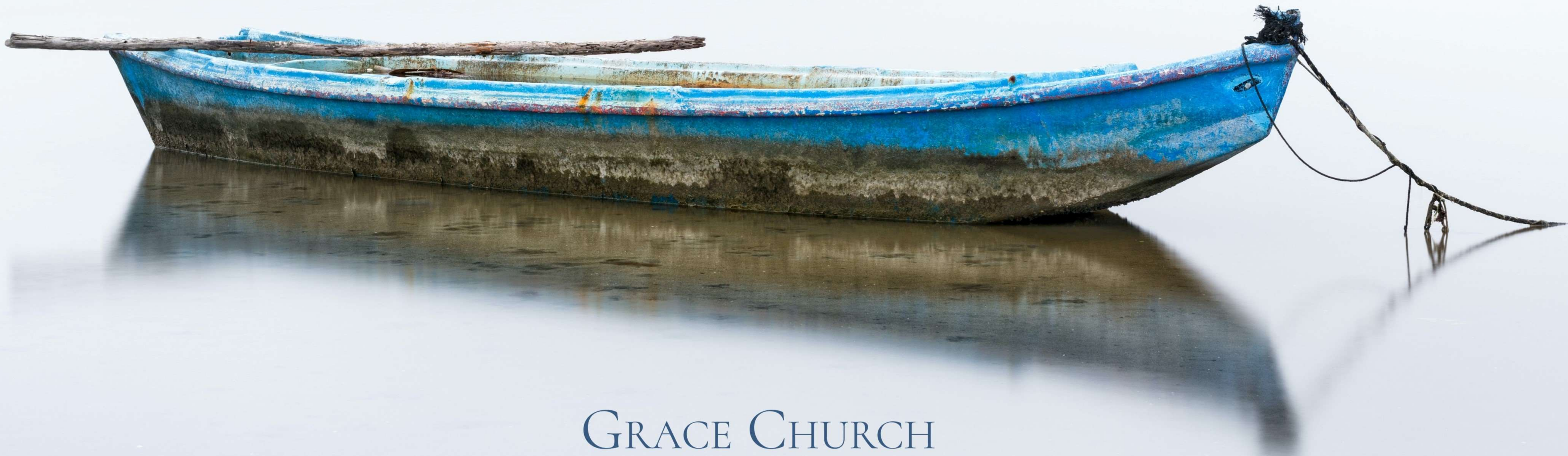
- *Be pure*

- I. Trust the Character of Christ
- II. Set Christ Apart as Lord
- III. Keep a Clean Conscience in Christ (1 Peter 3:16)**

“The conscience entreats us to do what we believe is right and restrains us from doing what we believe is wrong... It is a human faculty that judges our actions and thoughts by the light of the highest standard we perceive...”

(John MacArthur, *The Vanishing Conscience*, *emphasis added*)

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