

Own Up! #3

The Responsibility of a New Life

Word

Scripture Reference

1 Peter 1:13-25

Discussion Questions

1. What are the things that Christians usually struggle with, knowing that it's wrong yet pretending not to know?
2. Read 1 Peter 1:13-25. The apostle Peter continued to encourage the Christians to own up to their faith. In this passage, he cited three characteristics of life change that need to be present in a Christian's new life. First is that your new life in Christ should be characterized by holiness (v. 13-16). You are no longer controlled by the flesh and should stop longing for earthly desires. What was Peter's exhortation in verse 16? Discuss why being holy is difficult. What does it mean to be holy in everyday situations? As a believer, what makes it doable for you to live a holy life?
3. How is it possible to live in purity and to think as God thinks? What does the passage mean when it says that you stand before God's presence and He will assess your life according to how you live it?
4. Secondly, new life in Christ is characterized by reverence or fear of God (v. 17-21). Peter tells the Christians to live in reverent fear. Respect cannot be demanded but earned, and God definitely deserves your reverence because of who He is. What did He do for you before the creation of the world? What redeems you from your sins? How do you respond to what He has done? Reverence does not come from set rules but out of a heart condition from your walk with God. Share with the group how you revere God in the way you live your life.

5. Thirdly, new life in Christ is characterized by love for others (v. 22-25). God wants us to live with a pure heart, loving one another and seeing other people as someone whom God loves. In Christ, we are brothers and sisters. It is easy to disassociate ourselves from other people and forget that Jesus loves them, too. Discuss what usually hinders Christians from loving another Christian. How can you love without prejudices? In your assessment, how does love show in the way you treat the people working for you, like your employees, your house helpers, and drivers? How can you show them that they, too, are precious in God's sight and that Christ died for them as well?
6. There is no substitute for the Word of God. The living and abiding Word of God is unchanging because the One who wrote it never changes. Culture, man's laws and habits may change, but the Word of God does not. How can your priorities reflect the truth that your life is short-lived while God's Word is never-ending?

Walk

As a Christian, you have the responsibility to live a new life in Jesus Christ. Is your life in Christ characterized by holiness, reverence for God, and love for others? What does your life say about your Heavenly Father? What step can you take right away in order to live a holy life, revere God and actually show love for others this week?

Worship & Prayer

Father, thank You for Your Word which reminds me time and again that You will hold me accountable for how I live my life. Forgive me for the times I chose to disobey You and follow my own desires. Forgive me for the times I made choices that say You're not the most important Person in my life. Forgive me for the times I thought and acted like I'm the only one deserving of Your love, blessings, and forgiveness. I'm not, and I want other people to know, too, that even though we're undeserving, You love us anyway, enough to let Your Son die in our place. Thank You, Father, that when You look at me, You don't see my sin but rather see Your Son's blood covering me. Give me the strength to live my new life in holiness, in reverence, and in love. In Christ's name I pray. Amen.