

YEAR TEN

TOPIC: Living A Life Of Witnessing To Christ

PETER'S MESSAGE (1Pt 1:13-17; 2:9-25; 4:1-15)

Peter advised Christians not only to prepare their minds for action as well exercise self-control in everthing, they were to set their hope fully upon the grace coming to them at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Peter warned Christians to abstain from social vices but instead, they should strive to maintain a high moral living standard. He emphasized the need for Christians to live decently in order to stamp out all kinds of false allegations against them by non Christains. He lamented the circumstances that led to the transfer of the Jews' spiritual privileges to those who believe in Jesus (Christians) because of the Jews' rejection of Jesus Christ who is God's plan for mankind's salvation. He stated that Christians who believe in Christ would receive the promise of the spirit (the blessings of Abraham through faith). It was against this background that Peter referred to Christians as the chosen race

'But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Once, you were no people but now, you are God's people: once, you had not received mercy, but now, you have received'.

Peter told them that they should be holy because God is holy. Peter also advised Christians to rejoice when they suffer for the name of Christ. They should not suffer as a murderer, or a thief, or a wrong doer, or a mischief maker, yet if one suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but under that name let him glorify God. They should live as servants of God. Honour all men. Love the brotherhood, fear God and honor the Emperor.

To servants, Peter said, they should submit themselves to their earthly masters, even where there is a case of unjust punishment. He cited how Christ suffered for what he did not do. Therefore, Christians should follow the example of Christ.

WAYS CHRISTIANS CAN PROMOTE GOOD RELATIONSHIP.

1. Participate in community development
2. Contribute towards the needs of non-Christians.
3. Acceptance of non-Christians into Christian institutions.
4. Assist security agents whenever possible in maintenance of peace and order in the society.

CLASS WORK

Briefly discuss why Christians need to maintain high moral standard in the society?

TOPIC: Tolerance and Peaceful Co-existence.

SOCIAL VICES can be defined as the negative tendencies and habits carried out by citizens of a community.

Social vices tends to hinder and block the effective performance in witnessing for Christ. Christians are in their own interest and their spiritual advancement advised to resist the temptation of encouraging anti-social persons and groups involved in social vices. Some social vices include

1. Drug abuse
2. Bribery and corruption
3. Stealing
4. Armed robbery
5. Suicide bombings
6. Sexual promiscuity
7. Immorality
8. Tribalism
9. Nepotism
10. Kidnapping
11. Money laundering
12. Diversion of public funds into private accounts
13. Cheating etc.

As a corrective measure, Christians should pray for people involved in social vices to turn to Christ and leave their evil ways for the interest of the society to which they belong.

TEST 1.

SUB-TOPIC: Tolerance and Peaceful Coexistence

Tolerance is the willingness to accept something or somebody, especially opinions or behavior that you may not agree with, or people who are not like you.

The complete Christian Dictionary for Home and School defines Tolerance as the ability to be fair in the understanding of other people's views, opinion, traditions, culture, race, colour of skin, faith and beliefs etc. different from ours.

Coexistence occurs when people of different races, colour, religion, tradition, culture and socio-economic status live together in the same place and at the same time, in a peaceful way without discord and rancor.

Benefits of Tolerance and Peaceful Coexistence

1. There will be social, economic and industrial development
2. Good neighborliness
3. National building
4. Security
5. Discipline

6. Respect for the right of others

TOPIC: CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

The term civic means the general public or society. The term responsibility means the duty to be performed. Thus, Civic Responsibility means the duties that we have to perform as citizen of a country so as to ensure order, peace and progress.

SUB-TOPIC: THE NEED FOR ORDER IN THE SOCIETY (Romans 13:1-7)

According to Paul, for order to be established in the society there is the need to have the right attitude towards the governing authority. This means that we must submit to the authority of the government. Therefore, Paul admonishes all Christians to be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except those from God. All existing authorities are instituted by God. This means therefore that, to resist them is to resist God. Such resistance or insubordination will earn those concerned the wrath or judgment from God. Paul said that rulers are not terrors to good conduct but to bad conduct. Therefore, good citizens should not exercise undue fear about

those in authority as long as they obey the rulers and conduct themselves well. If they do what is right, they will receive the commendation of the governing authorities, for they are God's servants. But if they do any wrong, they should be afraid and be prepared for the consequences. The wrath of God would fall on such wrongdoers. Thus to live a life of good citizens, Christians should always maintain a clear conscience. They must pay their taxes as and when due; they must give respect to constituted authority.

SIGNIFICANCE

We can show we are responsible citizens by

1. Paying our taxes, levies or rates as and when due.
2. Obey the laws and regulations of the land
3. Voting and being voted for during elections.
4. Offering ourselves for counting during census.
5. Taking part in fund raising activities to help the poor and the needy.

TOPIC: CHRISTIANS AND PERSECUTION

Persecution is simply a form of harassment or intimidation that comes in the form of oppressions, incarceration, physical assault and denial of rights or even death because of one's commitment and loyalty to whomever or whatever one believes in.

SUB-TOPIC: PETER'S MESSAGE TO CHRISTIANS UNDER PERSECUTION (1Peter 1:3-17, 4:12-19)

St. Peter acknowledges the fact that Christians could face persecution on earth. This he believed was necessary in order to test the genuineness of their faith. According to Peter as gold passes through fire to be refined, so also is persecution to Christians as their ability to endure would qualify them for honour and glory of God on the last day.

Peter advised Christians to rejoice when they are being persecuted. At the end of their Christian race, the outcome of their faith would make them obtain eternal salvation of their souls. Christians are to see their persecution as their sharing in Christ suffering. They have to face such hardships without succumbing in order to bring honour to God's name.

Peter reminded Christians that persecutions are temporary. He also advised Christians that they should not consider themselves suffering for Christ when they are punished for any bad activity they participate in.

SUB-TOPIC: JESUS' MESSAGE ON LOVE OF ENEMIES (Matthew 5:38-48)

Jesus' message on loving our enemies emphasizes forgiveness, perseverance and enduring all wrong done to us by people. He asked his listeners to shun the Mosaic law of 'an eye for an eye

and a tooth for a tooth' and went on to add that his followers should eschew vengeance and retaliation as this will mar their testimony as Christians. He encouraged us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. Christians are to do this so that they will prove their claim to be God's children. Jesus added that Christians would not be doing anything extraordinary if they love those who love them because the Gentiles do the same. Finally, he said, *'You, therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect'. (Matthew 5:48)*

TOPIC IMPARTIALITY

James 2:1-3, Matthew 7:12, Luke 6:31

Impartiality occurs when everybody is treated equally in spite of gender, age, religion and status. It is also the act of not favouring one person or group more than and over the other.

James teaches Christians the need to avoid partiality in their daily dealings with others in the church and outside the church. He warned Christians not to allow class distinction to be a driving factor in their midst. They should not snub and relegate the poor to the background while giving unusual attention and recognition to the rich. He added that partiality is a sin before God and is as serious as any other sin.

ALL HUMANS ARE EQUAL BEFORE GOD

During the creation of man, God said, 'Let us make man in our own image' this means that everybody created by God is equal before God. God does not discriminate.

WARNING AGAINST PREJUDICE

Prejudice simply means an unreasonable dislike of or preference for a person, group, custom etc, especially when it is based on their race, religion, gender etc.

There is widespread social injustice, favoritism and nepotism in the country. Appointment and promotion in public service in the country are not based on merit, but on social and political factors, like tribe, gender, religion, membership of a political group etc. there is discrimination in the selection of candidates for even sporting activities and awards. In the judiciary, the poor hardly obtain justice. The laws of the land are often violated by the rich and yet, they go unpunished. All these are social injustices which should be eradicated.

THE EFFECTS OF PARTIALITY IN THE SOCIETY

1. It brings about disunity among various groups.
2. It promotes distrust and unhealthy rivalry
3. It does not foster sense of belonging.
4. It encourages sycophancy.

5. Mediocrity is enthroned
6. Merit is sacrificed on the altar of injustice.
7. Square pegs are put in round holes.
8. There is total collapse of the operational system.