

Ready to Give an Answer

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear” (1 Peter 3:15)

Introduction

1. We have spent several lessons discussing sins of the tongue and behaviors to avoid.
2. Let us spend the rest of our time in this series building up the character and behaviors that glorify God in our speech.
3. In this lesson, we will consider Peter’s admonition to “always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you.”
4. Drawing from Lesson Six, The Mouth of the Righteous, let’s consider how to teach our lips how to answer regarding the hope of our salvation in Jesus.

Discussion

I. “But Sanctify Christ as Lord in Your Hearts.”

- A. NKJV has “Sanctify the Lord God,” but most texts read, “Sanctify Christ as Lord.”
- B. Sanctify, set apart, make holy: Give Him highest honor, to glorify, exalt, enshrine.
- C. “Christ as Lord” is to place Him on the throne of our hearts.
 1. Gen. 39:9: Joseph, “how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God.”
 2. Luke 12:4-5: Fear above all.
 3. Matt. 6:24: To make Him our only master.
 4. Rom. 6:16-18: As a slave of righteousness.
- D. 1 Peter 3:13-14: Living godly lives is going to bring animosity and persecution from the world.
 1. 1 Peter 2:21; 3:9: To this we were called.
 2. When people see it, they are going to ask, “Why?”

II. “Be Always Ready to Give a Defense”

- A. Are you willing to suffer for Jesus’ name? _____
 1. If “Yes”, can you explain to others why? _____
 2. If “No”, something is missing as Jesus is not yet sanctified as Lord in your heart.
 3. How do we develop the conviction needed to say “yes”? _____
 4. 1 Pet. 1:7: A willingness to let the genuineness of our faith to be tested. _____
- B. People are going to inquire.
 1. They may ask out of admiration.
 2. 1 Pet. 4:4: Out of curiosity as though you are strange.
 3. They may ask out of hatred and bitterness.

4. What they are asking is a “reason for the hope that is in you.”
5. That is, why are you so convicted? What carries such weight and power in your heart that you willingly suffer and continue suffering so that you may obtain what you seek?

C. Preaching the gospel to ourselves.

1. Take up your cross and follow Jesus:
 - a. Matt. 10:38: To the apostles.
 - b. Matt. 16:21-27; Mark 8:31-38: After Peter’s rebuke.
 - c. Luke 9:21-26: Take up his cross daily.
2. If you do not feel convicted enough, or you feel you cannot give an adequate answer to those who ask, consider revisiting the gospel of your salvation. Bring to remembrance what you have in Jesus.
3. 1 Pet. 3:21-4:2: We ought to be reminded daily of Jesus’ willing to suffer for us according to the will of God.
4. Heb. 12:1-1-4: Looking to Jesus as the author and finisher of our faith – the one we must seek to emulate.
5. Rom. 1:16-17; 8:18, 31-39: Reminding ourselves of the hope and glory given to us in Jesus Christ.
6. 1 Peter 4:12-16: Do not think it strange but rejoice.

III. “With Meekness and Fear.”

- A. Our answer or defense ought not to be one of belligerence and rebellion.
- B. Acts 5:29: As the apostles who suffered for Jesus name, not in rebellion, but in submission to the will of God.
- C. All that God’s people do and say should be from a spirit of:
 1. Heb. 12:28: Reverence.
 2. Titus 3:2: Humility.
 3. Matt. 5:5: And meekness.

Conclusion

1. Colossians 4:6: Remembering that “how” we answer is just as important as “what” we answer.
2. Those we give an answer to are “outside” and do not yet know Christ.
3. How we answer and give a reason for the hope in us ought to leave an indelible impression on their hearts.