

## **The Church in the World: Our Lives as a Witness**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:11-12**

The role of the Church is to make the Word known to the outside world. We are ambassadors of God to bring the truth to the unbelievers. The only way for the Word to be spread, is to represent God in our daily lives and in everything we do to show how God has changed us and made us a part of His kingdom.

#### **Two Daily Habits of a Faithful Witness**

##### **Deny your own Fleshly Passions**

Passion: A strong desire to have something that belongs to someone else. Lust, strong feelings of want or desire. Not always an evil thing, but one can certainly lust after evil things.

The saints are not of this world but are sojourners in a land that is not their own. Abstain from the passions of the flesh. Not all passions, even for the believer, are good passions. They must be tested by discernment as to whether they are Godly or not.

Galatians 5:16-21 lists just some of the works of the flesh. He who practices these things will not inherit the Kingdom of Heaven. Galatians 5:22-24 lists all the things that true believers do and must do in order to live Godly lives and deny the flesh through the power of the Holy Spirit and Christ.

To say that you cannot defeat your sin, as a Christian, means that you do not believe that Christ defeated your sins. This is blasphemy. Your flesh is certainly at war with you and seeks your destruction, but you have grace greater than all enemies from God Himself. \*Ref. James 4:1 Though the flesh desires to insult the one who insulted us, to destroy the thing that wronged us, slander those who hate you and call them all kinds of insults and cursing, is that what Jesus did? Did Jesus throw stones at those who sought to stone Him? Did Jesus curse and swear at those who cursed and swore at Him? No. He fought those temptations and did not allow himself to sin.

You must follow Jesus' example. Kill ALL sin in your life with the utmost urgency and fervor. Kill them as soon as they show themselves and fight the battle to win the war for your soul. The Spirit will give you all the strength you need.

## **Devote Yourself to Good Works**

Keep your conduct honorable and excellent. When we are reviled, we do not revile in return. Those who are dead in their sins revile and mock and make fun of everyone, especially their enemies. Those who are alive in Christ pray for those who hate them, love those who hate you. Our good works are not our salvation, but they prove to others that we are saved, and that God has really done a good work in us, and that is a powerful witness to others.

When others slander you, but you behave well and help others and are gracious and kind and firm in the Word of God, what is that slander worth? That slander is untrue, and others will see that it is untrue. It will end up shaming the slanderer and not you. Titus 2:11-14

### **Application**

1. Be concerned with fighting your own sin just as much as every other good concern you have.
2. If you fail to abstain from the passions of your flesh, they will kill you.
3. Always remember that your life is a witness to who your Lord is.