

# Three Great Benefits of Being a *Faithful* Christian

1 Peter 3:1-16

Introduction:

- A. Peter uses terms to describe the behavior of faithful Christian:
  - 1. “Good conduct in Christ”. (v.16).
  - 2. “Righteous” and “good” (v. 11-12)
- B. Peter in our text point out three great benefits of being faithful as Christians:

Discussion:

## **I. The Approval of God. (vv. 12-13)**

- A. Means that our prayers are heard and answered. (Cf. John 9:31; Prov. 28:9).
- B. Means that we are “more than conquerors.” (Rom. 8:31-39)
- C. Means that we are abiding in the doctrine of Christ (2 John 9).
  - 1. Not doctrines of men (Mt. 15:9-13).
  - 2. Not what preacher, parents or peers say.

## **II. The Ability to Lead Others to Christ (vv. 1-2).**

- A. Nothing more important than winning a soul. (Mk 8:36, 37; Rom. 9:3; 1 Cor. 9:19-24).
- B. Nothing more effective in winning a soul than day to day godliness. (v. 2).
  - 1. Wives best influence husbands by quite “chaste conduct.”
  - 2. Parent best bring up children up in the Lord when faithful themselves.
    - a. Father can best restrain son by being good before him.
    - b. Mother can best mold her daughter’s character by living example.
  - 3. Neighbor best gain a neighbor by being a neighbor.

## **III. The Built in Answer to Unjust Criticism (vv. 15:16)**

- A. A godly live is the best defense against false criticism.
  - 1. Ill. Brother’s joke about another’s worldliness.
  - 2. There is no defense against just criticism.
  - 3. Can be so “straight-laced” that no person of good will believe critics. (Cf. Jay Johnson).
- B. A godly life will answer critics decisively in “day of visitation.” (1 Pet. 2:12).
- C. A godly life can only be lived “in Christ.” (v. 16; cf. 2 Tim.3:12)
  - 1. Those in Christ have believed (Gal. 3:26).
  - 2. Those in Christ have repented (Lk 13:3).
  - 3. Those in Christ have confessed Christ (Rom. 10:10).
  - 4. Those in Christ have been baptized (Gal. 3:26, 27; Rom. 6:4).
  - 5. Those in Christ are “new creatures.” (2 Cor. 5:17).

Conclusion: It pays to be faithful because of the effect can have on our:

- A. Personal relationship with God.
- B. Contacts in life.
- C. Our critics.
- D. Eternal destiny (Rev. 2:10).