

VISION

reaching people with Jesus.

1 Peter 2:12 – Good Works, Good Will, And Good News

November 7, 2021

- 1. We are tirelessly focused on reaching people with Jesus, willing to leave the 99 for the 1.**
- 3. We always have spots for people to plug into healthy, vibrant sermon-based life groups.**
- 5. We are the best neighbors our neighbors ever had. We seek to have neighborhoods so connected that people turn down promotions in order to stay where their families are so loved and supported.**

And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” Mark 12:30–31 (ESV)

- 4. We are known as a church that loves on the communities it serves in tangible ways. People know us for the things we do outside the four walls of the church building.**

For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. 1 Peter 2:15 (ESV)

Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation. 1 Peter 2:12 (ESV)

The single greatest tool for opening hearts to hear the gospel is how we live.

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 1 Peter 4:12 (ESV)

Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good. 1 Peter 4:19 (ESV)

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:16 (ESV)

Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct. 1 Peter 3:1–2 (ESV)

Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation. 1 Peter 2:12 (ESV)

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. Ephesians 4:29 (ESV)

Do all things without grumbling or disputing,... Philippians 2:14 (ESV)

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Philippians 2:4 (ESV)

1. Honorable character will silence the critics.

*...so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.
1 Peter 2:12 (ESV)*

On the monthly day, if he likes, each puts in a small donation; but only if it be his pleasure, and only if he is able... these gifts are used to support and bury poor people, to supply the wants of boys and girls of destitute means, and of older persons confined now to the house, of those who have suffered shipwreck, those who are banished to islands or of those shut up in prisons. —Tertullian (155-222)

Many, in nursing and curing others, transferred their death to themselves and died in their stead... The best of our brothers lost their lives in this manner.—Dionysius, Bishop of Alexandria.

2. Honorable character will open hearts to the gospel.

Conclusion — The Herb and Ruth Clingen story

Life Group Questions

1. Review the message. What was new that you didn't know?
2. In 1 Peter 2:12, Peter talked about how the way we live will silence evil spoken against Christians and soften hard hearts so they can hear the gospel. Read 1 Peter 2:13-17. How does Jesus change the way Christians handle politics so evil is not spoken against Christians and the gospel is advanced?
3. Read 1 Peter 2:18-20. How can God use a Christian's difficult work environment to advance the gospel?
4. As you think about church, what could you change about the way you conduct yourself while at church to make the gospel more attractive, especially to those who are new or feel unloved?
5. How can I change the way I live around my neighbors, co-workers, and those I meet at the YMCA to make the gospel more attractive?
6. In the Herb and Ruth Clingen story, we saw the power of living a good and honorable life in extreme suffering. Why are both the attitude we possess and the works we display especially powerful for sharing the gospel in times of suffering?