

Own Up! #2

The Responsibility of the Inheritance

Word

Scripture Reference

1 Peter 1:1-12

Discussion Questions

1. What has been the biggest challenge for you as a Christian? How did you own up to that challenge?
2. Read 1 Peter 1:1-12. In this passage we see the apostle Peter encouraging the Christians living in Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey), who were being persecuted and possibly starting to waver in their faith. He reminded them that as Christians they have responsibilities, and these responsibilities are for a special purpose. What did Peter tell the persecuted Christians about their identity (v. 1)? What responsibility comes along with this identity (v. 2)?
3. In God's sovereignty He saved us through the death of Jesus Christ. You were sanctified (set apart) as a child of God through the work of the Holy Spirit, and as such you gain an inheritance that carries responsibilities. What is this inheritance and what are the implications? How is this inheritance described in our passage (v. 3-5)? How would you compare this inheritance with earthly ones that you received on earth? Why is this eternal inheritance so secured (v. 5)? Share how this inheritance will motivate you to live for something better.
4. The inheritance you received as a child of God is an inheritance that results in joy (v. 6-8). Peter knew that he was writing to a group of people who were going through trials and difficulties. He encouraged them to focus on the inheritance they have in Christ. Discuss the good things that result from trials (v. 7). Share how you have grown in your walk with God through a difficult situation.
5. Peter also says that the joy of a Christian should be independent of his or her circumstances—a joy that is beyond words. This kind of joy comes from recognizing an inheritance that is unseen and rejoicing in your salvation. Why do people who are persecuted because of their faith still experience joy? And why is it that many Christians who are free to live out their faith do not fully enjoy the freedom of living responsibly for Jesus? Share how you are rejoicing in your salvation. The Word of God promises that whatever happens to you today, if you have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, you are saved and will be in God's presence forever. How does that impact your life?
6. The inheritance you received as a child of God is worth pursuing (v. 10-11). In your culture, when does a person usually receive his inheritance? The prophets in the Old Testament have been looking forward to the coming of the Messiah and His suffering. He did come, and He had to die so we can receive our inheritance. Share how it affects you, knowing that someone else died in order for you to gain an eternal and secure inheritance. How, then, should you live your life as a response to what Jesus did for you?

Walk

To sum it up, the responsibility of an eternal inheritance is to pursue it with joy! As an undeserving recipient of this eternal inheritance received through God's grace, are you joyfully looking forward to it, especially in the midst of trials and temptations? What should be your lifelong response for that amazing gift with which God has blessed you?

Worship & Prayer

Father, I am privileged to be called Your child. I am grateful that even though I don't deserve it, Your grace allowed Christ to die in my place so you can give me an eternal inheritance. Forgive me, Lord, for devaluing that grace and neglecting my responsibility as Your child. Allow me, Father, to live as someone set apart for Your purpose. Through Your Spirit enable me to live humbly, obediently, responsibly. In Christ's name I pray. Amen.