

Own Up! #5

The Responsibility of a Witness to the World

Word

Scripture Reference

1 Peter 2:11-12

Discussion Questions

1. If God calls you to another place to serve Him, what would be the most difficult thing for you to give up? Would you allow it to hinder you from obeying God's call? Share with the group.
2. Read 1 Peter 2:11-12. Unless God specifically calls you to be a witness as a missionary to another place, you don't have to go too far to look for someone who is lost (someone who needs to hear the gospel). There are unbelievers everywhere: in your home, neighborhood, circle of friends, and work place or school. As a Christian, you have a responsibility to witness to the world. In this passage, Peter urges the Christians to do two things. First, he said, "do not love the world." (v. 11). What does loving the world mean? Why is it so easy to love the things in the world?
3. Peter gave two reasons why you should not love the world. He said that you are sojourners and pilgrims in this world. When you travel, do you pack a lot? How can luggage slow down your travels? How do material things hinder spiritual growth? Peter also used the word "pilgrims," or strangers, to describe God's people in this world. What did he mean by it? Discuss why Christians should not fit in or feel right in the world.
4. Peter also said that you are to abstain from your desires of worldly things because it is war against the soul. Why is it so difficult to refrain from sinful desires? Could you hold on to God if you are holding on tightly to the ways of the world at the same time? Discuss

why it's hard to love God the way you should when you are still attached to the practices of the world.

5. The second responsibility of a witness to the world is to do what is right (v. 12) for the following reasons:
 - (a) Because then, other people will have nothing bad to say about you. What do your non-Christian loved ones and peers say about you? Are they aware that you are a Christian? Is your reputation good enough that they won't have anything to say against you?
 - (b) Because people will be observing you. As the world watches and sees you, they will know your good works. Have you ever stood up for your convictions, or done something right that cost you something you value? Share with the group.
 - (c) Because God will be glorified. How does being a good witness allow you to give glory to God?

Walk

Lives are a vapor, eternity is forever, heaven is full of joy, and hell is horrific and terrible. These are the great realities of life, and so live as a witness for Christ. Think of good deeds you can do as a means to witness to the unbelievers around you with whom you have regular contact. Is there anything in your life that you should give up in order to be a good witness for Christ?

Worship & Prayer

Father, as I sit and ponder how I can give glory to You, I think of what Jesus Christ did. His life, sacrificed, willingly given for my sake, was a powerful witness of Your love. You do not ask me to die for You; what You ask is that I live for You. And so I pray, Lord, to give me the strength to let go of whatever I hold precious in this world and hold on instead to Your hand. Wherever You lead, whatever the cost, may I be always willing to live a life that tells others that I am a sinner saved by the blood of Christ. By the power of Your Spirit and in the name of Jesus Christ I ask these things. Amen.