

## Our Responsibilities as Christians - 1 Peter 2:11-25

Mel Dahlgren – South Bay Christian Church – September 5, 2020 (Video Conference) (No Recording)

Last week V. 1-10-Our Privileges as Christians: 1) A chosen people, 2) precious to God  
3) a royal priesthood 6) a holy nation 7) a people belonging to God

This week: V. 11-25 - Our Responsibilities as Christians

V. 11-Abstain from sinful desires (See Galatians 5:19-21) Lust, Filthy language, Drug addiction, Any personal passion above God, not resisting thoughts planted by Satan (James 4:7), Hatred, Arguing, Wanting too much food or anything to excess, a temper, selfishness, being controlling, causing division, envy (wanting to be like another human instead of God), excessive alcohol, sex addiction.

V. 12-Live such good lives, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds.

V. 13-Submit to every human authority: like the emperor (our President)

V. 14- Submit to governors: like Gavin Newsome. (masks)

V. 15-God's will: to silence the foolish by doing good.

V. 16-Live in true freedom by being a servant. This avoids hypocrisy.

V. 17-Show proper respect to everyone: A) Love the brotherhood B) Awe for God C) Honor the king

V. 18-Employees: submit to your bosses with all respect even if harsh.

V. 19-Bear up under unjust suffering, because God is glorified.

V. 20-If endure suffering, this pleases God.

V. 21-Mission: Christ also suffered for you as an example for you to follow.

V. 22-He never sinned nor deceived anyone, unlike many many preachers today.

Please watch "**American Gospel - Christ alone**" on YouTube and Netflix.

V. 23-When insulted he did not retaliate. He suffered and made no threats, but trusted God completely.

V. 24-He paid for our sins that we might die to sin and live for him.

V. 25-We were like straying sheep, now restored to our Shepherd Who leads us if we are willing to follow.

From Grace Walk, Dr. Steve McVey “**Absurd Forgiveness.**“

When Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden, he wrongly assumed God would be angry but instead God came looking for Him to take His regular evening walk.

When Abraham sent his wife, Sarah, into Pharaoh’s tent to protect his own life by allowing her to have sex with another man, God told Pharaoh that he was on dangerous ground and that he’d better get her out of there right now. The next words out of God’s mouth to Abraham were to reassure him of the covenant He had made with him. Not a word about his sin.

When Elisha fled from Jezebel, after destroying 450 prophets of Baal, and was depressed and afraid and angry and prayed to die, God sent an angel to feed him so that he might regain his strength. No shame or blame.

After Peter had denied Jesus three times, our Lord made sure when he arose to mention Peter by name and said to make sure he knew Jesus was alive. No reference to what Peter had done.

These were giants in the Bible – giants who made horrific choices. In each instance, the love of God swallows up their sins and foolishness in one great gush of grace. It’s absurd. What have you done that causes you to think God may be disappointed or perturbed toward you? Whatever it is, you need to set it aside because that’s what He has done. As absurd as it sounds, God isn’t interested in what you’ve done in the past. He lives with you in the now and wants you to live in this moment of grace and accept His forgiveness.

Jesus showed us our Father’s heart when He had the Father of the prodigal son throw him a party when he returned home without so much as a mention of what the boy had done. That’s our God.