

CHRISTIAN CONDUCT

I Peter 2:4-12

Peter explains what Christians do for God

I. CHRISTIANS COME TO CHRIST (4)

A. THE COMMITMENT

1. Comprehension: Jesus is the living stone > Alive and reliable
2. Conversion: We have come to Christ as our Savior
3. Continuation: Coming continually for communion
4. Congregation: Coming with others to connect and collectively worship Christ

B. THE CONTRAST

1. Christ is dismissed by men
2. Christ is distinguished by God

II. CHRISTIANS OFFER SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES (5-8)

A. WE ARE ASSEMBLED BY GOD (5a)

- As bricks (living stones) in God's building

B. WE ARE ASSIGNED BY GOD (5b)

1. As a holy priesthood
2. Set aside to worship God
3. Set aside to help other worshipers worship

C. WE ARE ACTIVE FOR GOD (5c-8)

1. The Work: Offering spiritual sacrifices
 - a. Consecration - Romans 12:1
 - b. Witness - Romans 15:16
 - c. Giving - Phil. 4:18
 - d. Martyrdom - II Timothy 4:6
 - e. Praise - Hebrews 13:15
 - f. Benevolence - Hebrews 13:16
 - g. Prayer - Revelation 5:8
2. The Recipient: God
 - a. Directed to Him alone
 - b. Approved by Him alone

3. The Means: Through Jesus Christ
 - a. Who is precious (6a)
 - b. Who is proven (6b)
 - c. Who is prized (7a)
 - d. Who is passed-over by some (7b-8)

III. **CHRISTIANS PROCLAIM CHRIST'S EXCELLENCIES** (9-10)

A. AS HIS PEOPLE (9a)

1. Selected by God > A chosen race
2. Servants of God > A royal priesthood
3. Sacred to God > A holy nation
4. Special to God > A people for His own possession

B. WITH THIS PRIORITY (9b)

- Proclaiming His excellencies

1. Saying what God says
2. Sharing what God does
3. Singing about who God is

C. REMEMBERING THESE PARTICULARS (9c-10)

1. We were enlightened by Him (9c)
2. We were transformed by Him (10a)
3. We were favored by Him (10b)

IV. **CHRISTIANS MAINTAIN PURITY** (11-12)

A. REMEMBERING WHO WE ARE (11a)

1. Beloved > Dear friends
2. Oddballs > Aliens and strangers

B. RESISTING FLESHLY LUSTS (11b)

1. Be abstaining: Constantly keeping away
2. Be aware: Fleshly lusts do not promote godly living
3. Be alert: The real battle begins in our soul

C. REVEALING EXCELLENT BEHAVIOR (12)

1. Responsibility: Keeping our behavior excellent among pagans
2. Reasons
 - a. Good deeds will rebuke their slander
 - b. Good deeds will cause them to glorify God

V. CHRISTIAN CONDUCT SUMMARY

A. CHRISTIAN, COMMIT TO THIS ...

1. Coming (4)
2. Sacrificing (5-8)
3. Proclaiming (9-10)
4. Behaving (11-12)

B. CHRISTIAN, CONSIDER THIS

- What do you think of ...?

1. A missing member (4)
2. A mediocre minister (5-8)
3. A mute messenger (9-10)
4. A misbehaving missionary (11-12)

CONCLUSION:

What do Christians do?

- Christians work for God by coming and offering
- Christians witness for God by proclaiming and behaving

Let us draw attention to God through our ...

- Decisions: Coming
- Devotion: Offering
- Declaration: Proclaiming
- Demeanor: Behaving