



1 Peter

Staying Clean in a Dirty World

1 Peter 1:13-16

Study Guide

1. Before you begin this study take some time to write down some of the moral and ethical issues that face us in our day (e.g., dishonesty in school, pornography on the internet). Also write down some of the arguments that are used to establish a reason or reasons for what is to be considered right or wrong? In other words, why should a person tell the truth? Why should an Olympic athlete not use performance enhancing drugs if they can get away with it?
2. Read 1 Peter 1:13-25. You will notice that this section can be divided into three parts (1:13-16; 1:17-21; 1:22-25). What seems to be the emphasis in each of these units of thought? Now you are ready to explain the meaning of the word “therefore” in 1:13. Remember, when you see a “wherefore” or a “therefore” see what it is there for. What is the connection between 1:3-12 and 1:13-16?
3. Note the three imperatives Peter uses in 1:13. What is it that Peter wants his readers to do? How can one “gird up his mind?” When Peter says “be sober” does he mean not to get drunk? What does he mean? How does setting one’s hope on the Lord’s return affect the Christian’s ethical behavior?
4. Peter does not want his readers to be conformed to their former lusts (1:14). What were Christians like before they trusted Christ (Eph. 2:1-3)? What should be the result of true salvation (Rom. 1:5; 1 Pet. 1:2)? What kind of desires drove you before you became a Christian? If our nature “determines appetites and actions,” what happened when we were converted to Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:1-8)?
5. The Christian is called to “be holy” (v. 15). What passage from the Old Testament does Peter quote from (v. 16)? What does holiness of life mean (2 Cor. 6:14-7:1)? Name some of the misconceptions about holiness? Explain how the Christian can be holy in the following areas: Driving in traffic, playing a baseball game, eating, doing a book report for school, shopping, television.
6. What is the ultimate basic for ethics according to 1 Peter 1:13-16 (Eph. 5:1; Matt. 5:48; Lk. 6:36; Col. 3:9-10; 1 Jn. 3:2-3)? Why is this vastly superior to anything human systems of ethics can offer?