

# FIRST PETER

## Part 88

### “Balancing Our Fears”

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All of us, as believers, sometimes grow weary of the opposition we face as we live the Christian life. Sometimes we might even daydream about living in a world where God-honoring believers are popular, not criticized. It would be so nice to live a righteous life and be popular and well liked by everyone.

Well, dream on! Now that we are children of the Living God, we are not popular with the people of this world. Jesus said in the “Lord’s Prayer” these words: *“I have given them Your Word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of this world.”* (John 17:14)

So we must continually be reminded of our purpose here on earth. We must also remember that those believers, who live a righteous life, will have to endure the consequences of a godly lifestyle.

# RESULTS OF A RIGHTEOUS LIFESTYLE

I Peter 3:14

- Settle the question in your own **heart**; Will we suffer because we are **obedient** children of God? (*Note: 2:19-21, 2:23, 3:17-18, 4:1, 4:15, 4:19, 5:10*)
- If you taste of this kind of suffering, you will be supremely blest, fortunate, well off or **happy**.
- Remember, this is a spiritual **fulfillment** when you walk in righteousness.
- You will also be "**terrorized**" by some, or the target of people's intimidation.
- Our practical righteousness is a continual **reminder** to most people that sin has **devastating** consequences.
- The **response** of most unsaved people to righteous behavior intimidates many professing believers to "**sell out**" to the sin principle.

# RESPONSE OF A RIGHTEOUS BELIEVER

## I Peter 3:14

- Do not be afraid of their (those who oppose righteousness) **tactics** to shipwreck your life.
- Instead, **fear** God!
- Your "fear" of **displeasing** God should dominate your life. (*II Corinthians 5:11*)
- You will not be "**agitated**" by these things if you have solid convictions about Jesus Christ. (*Note: John 14:1-3*)
- Do not act like so many and compromise **away** living for the sake of "man's" approval.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

- Salvation is a free gift, but righteous living is a **costly** endeavor.
- Compromise of biblical **principles** is the enemy of righteous living.

## **PERSONAL APPLICATION**

1. What areas of your life are pleasing to those who reject Christ?
2. How have you compromised biblical standards because of enormous pressure from others? Explain.
3. What is your greatest fear?
4. What conviction about Christ gives you victory over this fear?