

(1 Pet 3:15)

- I. Introduction: “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”
- a. Christianity is a taught religion – it comes from hearing the Gospel of Christ
 - i. (Rom 1:16) “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”
 - ii. The Gospel brings salvation to those who believe – How do we get faith?
 - 1. (Rom 10:17) “Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.”
 - 2. Hearing the word of God gives faith
 - iii. We must be able to teach others the Gospel or else we fail in our work for God
 - 1. (Mark 16:15,16) (Matt 28:19)
 - 2. (2 Tim 2:2) “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”
 - a. Our job is to teach others and they teach also
 - iv. Not just the work of a preacher to teach
- II. How can we accomplish the work of teaching?
- a. Peter said, “...sanctify the Lord God in you hearts...”
 - i. First of all we need the right attitude
 - ii. Sanctify – Revere
 - iii. Heart – Mind – the part of man that feels and thinks
 - 1. Revere God in our mind
 - 2. Keep God and his ways holy to ourselves
 - iv. If we do sanctify the Lord God in our hearts, we:
 - 1. Will want to spread the word because we care for the souls of others
 - a. (Jer 20:9) “Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.”
 - i. Jeremiah was weary of speaking, but the Word of God burned in him that couldn’t endure it – Had to speak
 - ii. We should feel the same way
 - 2. Will be bold – because of Love
 - a. (1 Thess 2:2-4) “But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to

- iii. (2 Peter 3:18) “But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.”
- iv. If we grow in knowledge we’ll grow in confidence in the Word.
 - 1. We should be like Paul (Acts 28:30-31) “And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him, Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.”
 - 2. The more we study – the more we know – the more we know – the more faith we have (Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God)
 - 3. The more faith – the more confidence
- c. Peter says, “...give an answer...”
 - i. “answer” – from Greek word (apologia) meaning “verbal defense, a plea – clearing of oneself”
 - ii. Defending the Gospel – even in the midst of persecution
 - iii. (Jude 3) “It was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”
 - 1. Contend – Struggle for
 - 2. Defend the truth
 - iv. (Phil 1:16) “...Knowing that I am set for the defense of the gospel of Christ.”
 - 1. We need to have this mindset if we want to accomplish the work of teaching
- d. Peter says, “...to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you...”
 - i. Nobody will ask what they do not see
 - 1. Must live as a child of God – in a special way
 - ii. (1 Peter 3:16) “Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.”
 - 1. Conversation – conduct
 - 2. If you live as a Christian and walk in good conduct – how can they accuse you of anything evil
 - a. If they accuse you of evil, and it’s true – it puts Christ and the church to shame
 - b. (Heb 6:6) “If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.”
 - iii. The key to teach others is not to be a hypocrite!
- e. Peter says, “... In meekness and fear...”
 - i. We need to understand when we teach that we must remember our own soul.

- ii. Meekness – mildness, humility
- iii. Fear – Fear in God
 - 1. (Eccl 12:13) “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”
 - 2. Remember we all have an appointed time
 - a. (Heb 9:27) “...it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”
 - b. Need to remember our place as servants of God

III. Conclusion

- a. Are we teaching others as we should?
 - i. Are we giving God reverence?
 - ii. Are we ready by studying?
 - 1. If someone asked could we give the answer
 - iii. Are we set for the defense?
 - iv. Are we living right so that someone would ask?
 - 1. Or are we luke warm
 - a. (Rev 3:16) “So then because thou are luke-warm and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.”
 - v. Do we have meekness and fear while we teach?
 - 1. Do we forget that we are the servants of God
- b. Lets do the Work that is before us!