

Small Group Questions
Positioned for a Purpose - Week 4

What Am I Designed For? (Part 2)

Last week we considered the truth that we are created by God *to make Him known*. We make God known through our actions and our words. In his letter to fellow Christ-followers, Peter makes this clear.

Read the passage below out loud in your group. Read it in a couple of translations if you have more than one in your group. (I've included the NIV here.)

⁸ Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. ⁹ Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. ¹⁰ For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. ¹¹ They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it. ¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

¹³ Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats^[b]; do not be frightened."^[c] ¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

1 Peter 3:8-16

- ❖ What does Peter instruct his listeners to DO (or Not Do) in verses 8-12? How does each of these actions relate to making God known?
- ❖ Where have you seen Christ-followers give a clear testimony through their obedience to Peter's instructions? How have you seen Christians confuse or alienate others through their unwillingness/inability to live out these instructions? Is there a certain directive of Peter's that you are struggling to live out?

Read verses 15-16 out loud again.

Peter tells them, "In your hearts revere Christ as LORD." This is more than a preface to what he'll say next, it makes the connection between conviction and words.

- ❖ What convictions are part of "revering Christ as LORD"? (It may be helpful to remember the significance of each name – Christ and Lord. Christ refers to Jesus as the Messiah. The one who saves and restores. "LORD" is a title of authority.)

- ❖ How important is it to refresh our convictions about who Jesus is and what He has done for us? Is this something you regularly do? What happens when these convictions aren't revisited?

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.
1 Peter 3:15b-16

- ❖ Every word or phrase in these two verses has something important to say to us as we make God known through our Words. Choose one of the phrases listed below and consider how it might apply to you. In what ways are you doing this well? Are there ways this can become more true of the way you relate to others?
 - Always
 - Be prepared
 - Give an answer
 - To everyone
 - Who asks you to give a reason for the hope you have
 - Gentleness and respect
 - Keeping a clear conscience

NOTE: The Bible uses the word "hope" in a different way than we usually do. In our culture, to hope is to wish; to long for something positive. As in, "I hope my family has a great time on our upcoming vacation". The biblical definition of HOPE is, "the confident expectation of a reality not yet experienced." Christians throughout the ages have not been crushed by suffering because they (we) are confident God will keep His promise to right every wrong; to welcome His children into His kingdom where pain will be no more and He will be known perfectly.

- ❖ As you finish this session, take a minute to list one person with whom you can share the reason for the hope you have. Pray for them and for others in your group.