

Sermon: Sanctify Christ As Lord, 1 Peter 3:13-17.

This week's sermon talking points:

1. As Christians, we face faith-instigated persecution, but we can do so without fear because we understand it to be under the sovereignty of God.
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Practical ways to "sanctify Christ as Lord":
 - a. Active promotion of Christ in your heart, mind and life. (Set apart, unlike other things... Col 3:1-4)
 - b. Active subjection of self under His headship. (Rom 12:1-2)
 - c. On-going conscious awareness of Christ in all circumstances (John 15)
 - d. Actively grounding passions, desires, direction, and confidence in Him.
3. When we are seating Christ where He belongs, attuning ourselves to the truths from His Word, then we find ourselves empowered and prepared by the Spirit to explain ourselves to the world.
4. As Christians, we are called to be ready to share the message of Jesus!
5. The result of our witness and steadfastness in suffering is the work of God.
6. Our confidence and trust in God declares to the world the promised peace and sure hope that Christ has granted to us.
7. We, as the church, are blessed to be a blessing and reviled to be given opportunity.

Questions:

1. **Why do we easily fear when we face adversity, suffering and/or persecution?**
2. **How does God's eye upon you and His perfect sovereignty in the midst of suffering help you as you walk through those times? In what specific ways has truth helped you?**
3. **Pastor BJ described "sanctifying Christ as Lord in your hearts" as one of the biggest keys to success in the Christian life. What does it mean to sanctify Christ?**
4. **Pastor BJ offered four ways to sanctify Christ (see above). Which has proved the most valuable of these ways in your life? In application, how do you accomplish these things in your life? In what other ways do you sanctify Christ?**
5. **How is living in the Spirit connected with "sanctifying Christ as Lord?"**
6. **Pastor BJ shared that too often we look to a verse like 1 Peter 3:15 to feel guilty about not being able to "defend" Christianity from all the questions: age of earth, problem of evil, innocent person in unreached tribe, etc. Yet, the verse has more to do with giving an account for the hope in you. What was Pastor BJ's understanding of the answer we are being challenged to give? Do you agree? How does this change your role in evangelism?**
7. **When was the last time you had the chance to share Jesus with someone? Who was the last person you invited to church?**
8. **What did Peter mean when he said we would put our enemies to shame (v.16)? How can shame work to bring about someone's salvation?**
9. **In the final point above, suffering and everything else that comes with life is to become a means of grace, either to us, but also especially through us. In what ways have you seen the life of a Christian bless their context? Do you know of others who have suffered for "righteousness sake" and heard how the circumstances turned out?**
10. **What was one of the biggest thing that stuck with you from the service this weekend?**