



**LESSONS FROM
THE APOSTLE
PETER**

I. Peter was named “rock” (petros) by the Lord (John 1:42).

A. “Did we not know who wrote this letter we should be forced to say: This is a rocklike man who writes thus, whose soul rests on a Rock Foundation, and who with his mighty testimony undertakes to fortify the souls of others against the pressure of the storms of suffering advancing upon them and to establish them upon the True Rock Basis”-R. C. H. Lenski, quoting from Wiesinger, pg. 18, Interpretation of Peter, John, Jude.

B. This probably lets you know that I disagree with those who characterize Peter as an impetuous and vacillating man!

I HOPE THAT I WILL NEVER CHARACTERIZE SOME CHRISTIAN BY SOME ISOLATED FAULT, OR SIN IN THEIR LIFE!!

Abraham lied on two occasions (Genesis 12:18 & 19; 20:12), but He is characterized by God as, “the father of all them that believe”-see Romans 4:11.

II. He was a man quick to repent!

“And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.

And Peter went out, and wept bitterly”-Luke 22:61 & 62.

III. Peter was a man of great courage!

“And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both to prison, and to death”-Luke 22:33.

Peter proved this statement when he drew his sword and cut off the ear of Malchus-see John 18:10.

John 18:3 speaks of a “band” (speiran) of men, or soldiers who came to take the Lord away.

W. E. Vines says of this word, “It was also used for a larger body of men, a cohort, about 600 infantry, commanded by a tribune”-Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, pg. 96.

**Question: Isn't this a great manifestation of
"Rock's" courage?**

What about Peter's statement in Acts 2:23? Peter was apparently in the presence of multiplied thousands of Jews when he made the statement! "Him being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain."

Many other examples can be given from the scriptures!

IV. Not even apostles were above censorship when wrong was committed-see Galatians 2:11-14.

“But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he stood condemned”-verse 11.

A. Peter’s “hypocrisy” influenced other Jews to disassociate themselves from their Gentile brothers in Christ, even including Barnabas-verse 13.

B. The Greek word for “hypocrisy,” (hupokrisei & sunhupekrithesan) is found twice in verse 13.

C. The influence of leaders in the church is extremely powerful!

D. If they go astray, it is likely that others in the church will go astray too!

E. This is why prompt correction by Paul was necessary!

Peter's sin was public and had an evil influence on others, and Paul corrected it publicly and promptly!!

Peter's action gave the impression it was wrong for Jews to acknowledge Gentiles as brothers in Christ!

"A little leaven leavens the whole lump"-I Corinthians 5:6.

F. Here's the command Moses gave to Aaron and his two sons after the death of Nadab and Abihu.

"Uncover not your heads, neither rend your clothes; lest ye die, and lest wrath come upon all the people"-Leviticus 10:6.

Aaron was second-in-command to Moses and if he and his sons had shown displeasure upon the death of Nadab and Abihu, their influence would have caused a rebellion of the Jews against God!

REMEMBER , NOT EVEN THE HIGHEST RULERS AMONG GOD’S PEOPLE WERE/ARE ABOVE CENSORSHIP WHEN IT IS NECESSARY!!

G. Tell the story of a congregation where there was a “sinning elder” whose actions were not corrected for a period of time, and great harm came to that church!

Finally, the other elders took action against their fellow-elder and withdrew fellowship from him because he would not repent. Now that congregation is “back on the right track!!”

H. Great harm comes in churches when there is “sin in the camp!” Read and study the record in Joshua, chapter 7.

V. Great accomplishments in the church come by planning beforehand and setting high spiritual goals!

A. Peter also served as an elder-see I Peter 5:1-4.

B. That Peter served as an elder speaks volumes about him! This means he fulfilled all of the qualifications given in I Timothy 3:1-7.

C. It also means that Peter and his wife had a long-range plan in their life!

We know this by virtue of the fact that great spiritual accomplishments don't happen by accidents.

Christian men and women who accomplish great things from a spiritual vantage point, do so because they set high goals and ask for God's help and blessings as they march towards those goals!

I encourage every Christian in this congregation to set high spiritual goals and ask God for his blessing as you work towards accomplishing those goals!