

**PETER'S
TEACHING
ABOUT
MANNER OF
LIFE, # 5**



I. DEFINITION: ANASTROPHE, “In the NT, mode of life, conduct, behavior, deportment (Gal. 1:13; Eph. 4:22; James 3:13; II Pet. 2:7; 3:11); life, as made up of actions (Heb. 13:7; I Pet. 1:15)”- Spiros Zodhiates, The Complete Word Study Dictionary New Testament, pg. 164.

NOTE:

KJV goes with “conversation,” and “pass”

NKJV goes with “conduct”

NASV goes with “behavior,” “way of life,” and “conduct”



II. MANNER OF LIFE passages in Peter's letters where influence is specifically mentioned.

A. *“Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul:*

Having your behavior honest (kalon, good) among the Gentiles: that whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good (kalon, good) works, which they shall behold glorify God in the day of visitation”-I Peter 2:11 & 12.

See the Lord's teaching in Matthew 5:13-16.

Notice the ending of Matthew 5:16 and see the similarity with the ending on I Peter 2:12: “That they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

Question: Isn't conversion in view in both of these texts?



B. *“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:*

Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good manner of life in Christ”-I Peter 3:15 &16.

Notice the severe context-verses 13, 14, and 17.

“And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?

But and if ye suffer for righteousness sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be ye troubled. For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.”

A COUPLE OF THINGS NEED TO BE EMPHASIZED:

1. God does not “cut any slack” to his people in difficult times!

2. Even in severe times such as in persecution, God expects His children to conduct themselves in such a way that those who accuse them of evil would be ashamed when they see the good works of the Christians!

C. “Likewise, ye wives be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not (apeithousin, have not been persuaded) the word, they may without the word be won by the behavior (anastrophe) of the wives;

While they behold your chaste behavior (anastrophe), couple with fear.

Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing gold, or of putting on of apparel;

But let it be the hidden man of the heart in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price”-I Peter 3:1-4.

POINTS OF EMPHASIS FROM THIS TEXT:

- 1. The husbands in view are those who have heard the gospel, but have not yet been persuaded to obey.**
- 2. Peter is not teaching Christian wives they shouldn't teach their husbands the gospel if they don't know it!**
- 3. Peter's teaching to the Christian wife is that she can win her husband to the Lord without a single word by submitting to him, and displaying before him behavior becoming of a Christian wife!**

4. The emphasis for the Christian wife is not on the outward adornment of the plaiting of the hair, or the wearing of gold, or the putting on of apparel, but on a meek and quiet spirit, which is of great price in the sight of God!

5. A Christian example is very powerful, wives! You can win your husband to the Lord simply by living the Christian life before him!

6. Remember wives: The husband in view is the husband who has heard the gospel , but hasn't yet been persuaded to obey! Your Christian manner of life can “win him” over to the Lord!

III. THE THRUST OF THIS LESSON IS TO SHOW THAT GOD WANTS HIS CHILDREN TO LIVE LIVES THAT WILL INFLUENCE OTHERS TO BECOME CHRISTIANS!

A. The example of Christ

“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example that we should follow in his steps:

Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself unto him that judgeth righteously.

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose strips ye were healed”-I Peter 2:21-24.

LET'S CONSIDER THE SUFFERINGS OF THE LORD IN HIS TRIALS AND ON THE CROSS, AND CONSIDER HIS RESPONSE:

A. His sufferings

1. False witnesses were used at the trials-Matthew 26:59 & 60; Mark 14:55-59

2. Christ was accused of blasphemy-Matthew 26:65

3. Those on the council said He was guilty of death-Matthew 26:66

4. Those on the council spat in His face, buffeted Him, smote Him with the palms of their hands, and ask Him, *“Who is he that smote thee?”*-Matthew 26:67 & 68

5. He was scourged-Matthew 27:26

6. The Roman soldiers stripped Him of His clothes and placed on him a scarlet robe, platted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, placed a reed in His right

hand, bowed their knees before Him, said to Him, “Hail, King of the Jews,” spit on Him, and took the reed and smote Him on the head-Matthew 27:31. All of this was done in mockery-see verses 29 & 31.

7. Crucified Him-Matthew 27:35

8. Those who passed by wagged their heads and reviled (eblasphemoun) Him-Matthew 27:39.

9. The thieves reviled Him-Matthew 27:44; Mark 15:32.

B. The Lord’s response

1. He did not revile when He was reviled, and did not threaten when He suffered-I Peter 2:23.



2. Jesus spoke to the Father from the cross-Matthew 27:46; Luke 23:34

3. The Lord said to Mary, “*Behold thy son*”-John 19:26

4. The Lord said to John, “*Behold thy mother*”-John 19:27

NOTE: ALL THESE POINTS AND OTHERS CAUSED THE ONE THIEF TO HAVE A CHANGE OF HEART TOWARDS THE LORD!

1. The one thief railed (eblasphemia) on the Lord shortly before the Lord died-Luke 23:39.

2. The penitent thief rebuked the other one and said, “*Dost thou not fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?*”

And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.

And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom”-Luke 23:40-43.

**REMEMBER THE THEME OF THIS LESSON-
INFLUENCE!**

It was the powerful influence of the Lord in the most trying circumstances possible that brought about this man’s conversion!!

1. In his statement, this thief acknowledges that Christ is Lord and Saviour!

2. He apparently had heard either the Lord, or John the Baptist speaking of the kingdom of God, and calling for repentance! This thief finally repented shortly before he died!

3. Though this was so, the thief remained impenitent and un-convicted until he witnessed the godly conduct of the Lord on the cross!

THE LORD HONORED THE THIEF'S REQUEST BY SAYING, "*Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise*"-Luke 23:43.

Questions:

Is our conduct such that eye-witnesses acknowledge that our lifestyle is Christian?

Is our conduct such that we can have a positive and important part in converting someone outside the body of Christ?

Or, is our conduct such that those outside the body of Christ view us as just "someone else in the rat-race of this world?"