Text: 1 Peter 2:9-25, John 3:19-21

^{1 Peter 2:9} But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

John 3:19 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.

²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.

²¹ But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

1. Control Your Private AND Public Behavior (vv11-12) Result: Sinners will Notice and May Come to Christ

1 Peter 2:11 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

¹² Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

2. Submit to the Authorities - Teach Your Kids, too - Unless You're Required to Surrender Your Biblical Testimony, Truth, and Convictions (vv13-16) Result: Some Hostile, Irrational Unbelievers will be Silenced

1 Peter 2:13 Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme,

¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.

¹⁵ For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.

16 Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.

3. Don't 'Lose It' with Unreasonable Employers - or Anyone Else (vv18-25) Result: You'll be a Mature Follower of Christ, Not Just a 'Good Time' Christian

1 Peter 2:18 Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.

¹⁹ For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.

²⁰ For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.

²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.

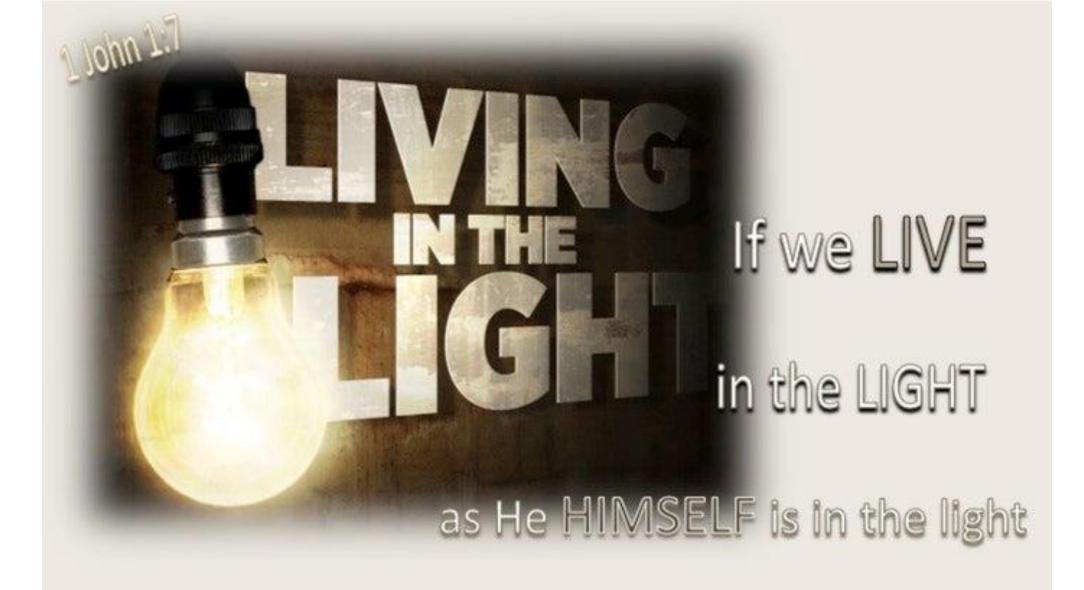
²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

4. The Conclusion (v17)

1 Peter 2:17 Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.



we have FELLOWSHIP with one another