

Series graphic w/email

(Question slide and then a slide with the question and A & B all on the slide)

What makes a “good day” ... a good life?

- A) Full of frustrations ...
- B) Full of frustrations ... but ...

{all together one slide}

2 Truths to Recognize

- 1) Much of our lives are spent in REACTION to what happens to/around us
- 2) Possible to have a good day/life EVEN WHEN things don't “go our way”

**DIFFERENT CALLING ... called to the “good life” but
DIFFERENT definition/understanding of the “good life”**

I Peter 2:11-12a

Dear friends, I urge you as strangers and temporary residents to **abstain from fleshly desires** that war against you. ¹² Conduct yourselves **honorably** among the Gentiles ...

I Peter 2:13, 15, 17

Submit to every human authority because of the Lord ... to the Emperor ... ¹⁵ ... it is God's will that you silence the ignorance of foolish people **by doing good** ... ¹⁷ **Honor** everyone. **Love** the brotherhood. **Fear God**. Honor the Emperor.

{all together; one slide}

- **Not living for pleasure ... even if it feels good**
- **Honoring others ... even difficult people**
- **Submitting to authority ... even the government**
- **Doing good ... even in a broken world**
- **1st century slaves (vv. 18-19)**

I Peter 2:20-21,24-25

... when you do what is good and suffer, if you endure it, this brings **favor with God**.

²¹ For you were **called** to this, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example,

so that you should **follow in His steps** ... He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree,

so that, having died to sins, we might **live for righteousness**; you have been **healed by His wounds**. ²⁵ For you were like sheep going astray, but you have now returned to the **Shepherd and Guardian** of your souls.

The Good Life =

the “**with God**” life where I know and trust God as my **Shepherd & Guardian**

God is Sovereign □ God is sovereignly present WITH me as my good

Psalms 16:1-2 {HCSB}

Protect me, God, for I take refuge in You. ² I said to Yahweh, “You are my Lord; I have **nothing good** besides You.”

Life as reacting/responding ...

- a) To **WHAT** happens ...
- b) To **WHO** is **WITH** us ...

I Peter 3:1-4

In the same way, wives, **submit yourselves** to your own husbands so that, even if some disobey the word, they may be won over without a word **by the way their wives live** ² when they observe your pure, reverent lives. ³ Don't let your beauty consist of outward things like elaborate hairstyles and wearing gold jewelry or fine clothes, ⁴ but rather what is **inside the heart**—the imperishable quality of a **gentle and quiet spirit**, which is of great worth **in God's sight**.

- The way we live in marriage should reflect that God is with us
- Reflecting Jesus back to your husband ...
 - Because Jesus is WITH you.

People in difficult relationships often do not “see” that God is with them and thus try to be “god” but one that looks more like the “god” of this age than the God of the Cross.

I Peter 3:7

Husbands, in the same way, live with your wives in an **understanding way**, as with a weaker partner, showing them **honor** as **coheirs of the grace of life**, so that your prayers will **not** be hindered.

Lose power in prayer when we assert ungodly power in relationships.

Called to **BE a type of person** ... a person for whom the Lord is their Shepherd and Ruler.

2 Ways of Doing Life:

- Reacting to others (*Gentiles, emperors, bosses, spouses ...*)
- Reacting to the shepherding & reigning presence of the Lord

I Peter 3:8-9

Finally, **all of you** be like-minded and sympathetic, love one another, and be compassionate and humble, ⁹ not paying back evil for evil or insult for insult but, on the contrary, **giving a blessing**, since you were **called for this**, so that you may inherit a blessing.

We are SO blessed by the Lord who is WITH us and has future blessings for us that we can give blessings ... even to our enemies!

Luke 6:27 (MSG)

To you who are ready for the truth, I say this:

Love your enemies. Let them **bring out the best** in you, not the worst ...

I Peter 3:10-12

*For the one who wants to love life and to **see good days**, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit, ¹¹ and let him turn away from evil and **do what is good**.*

*Let him seek peace and pursue it, ¹² because **the eyes of the Lord** are on the righteous and **his ears are open** to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do what is evil.*

I Peter 3:13-14

Who then will harm you if you are devoted to what is good? ¹⁴ But **even if** you should suffer for righteousness, **you are blessed**. *Do not fear them or be intimidated ...*

I Peter 3:15a

... but **in your hearts** regard (=honor) Christ the Lord as holy ...

Luke 17:21

... the Kingdom of God is **in your midst**."

Kingdom of God = realm where Christ is King and His will is done

Determine (from the inside out**) to be a **Christ-follower** today ... and today will be a good day!!**

We can "believe in Jesus" but have entire areas of our life that He is **not part of as our Shepherd and Guardian.**

I Peter 3:15b-16

... but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the **hope that is in you**. (see *Colossians 1:27*)

¹⁶ Yet do this with **gentleness and reverence**, keeping a **clear conscience**, so that when you are accused, those who disparage your good conduct in Christ will be put to shame.

The "conscience**" can be set ...**

I Peter 3:17-18, 22

For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.
18 For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might **bring you to God**. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit ...
22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God with angels, authorities, and powers subject to Him.

IMAGE OF 2 CIRCLES; KINGDOM

One calling with 3 Invitations:

CALLING: the "with God" life

{come up one at a time; each number on a different/separate slide}

1) Come alive ... by the Spirit through the Cross

IMAGE of 2 CIRCLES; KINGDOM

{all on one slide at same time}

2) Untouched hurt & trauma

- a. Release through reframing *with-ness of God*
- b. Realize a different calling
- c. Restored through His grace

IMAGE OF 2 CIRCLES; KINGDOM

3) Take your "now" ... give it to the Lord Do good

IMAGE OF 2 CIRCLES; KINGDOM