

CLASS: SS1
SUBJECT: CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS STUDIES
TOPIC: CHRISTIANS LIVING IN THE SOCIETY
WEEK: 6
TERM: SECOND

CHRISTIAN LIVING AMONG NON-CHRISTIANS

In most cases, people are often jealous of Christians and see them as not righteous as they claim to be. For this obvious reason and for the fear of God, Christians in their various communities are supposed to live according to Christian standard. They should be disciplined in all their conducts knowing fully well that they are under the watchful eyes of non-Christians who are very critical of them. They should be law-abiding and show their respect for constituted authority.

PETER'S TEACHING ON THE EXPECTED LIFE STYLE OF CHRISTIANS LIVING AMONG NON-CHRISTIANS (1 PETER 2:9-25)

Peter, in his message tried to warn Christians to abstain from any form of social vices and maintain a high moral standard of living.

Moreover, the Jews had always regarded themselves as the chosen race based on the fact that they are the descendants of Abraham. Unfortunately, they did not recognize the importance of Jesus in God's plan for Salvation of mankind. They, therefore, rejected him. This privilege has been transferred to those who believe in Jesus Christ (Christians). Such people would receive the promise of the spirit (the blessing of Abraham) through this was the reason St. Peter referred to Christians as the chosen race when he said;

"But you are a chosen race, a royal Priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the Wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

Peter, therefore, appealed to Christians not to be conforming to the standard of this world. They should avoid the passion of the flesh and things that hinder their

spiritual growth. They must maintain good conduct among non-Christians so that in case of false accusation, people would see their good deeds and glorify God.

Again, Christians are expected to be subjected to every human institution and to civil authority. God set up authorities to punish wrong doers and praise those who do the right thing. By so doing they would put to silence the ignorance of the foolish man.

Peter advised servants to submit themselves to their earthly masters. Even where there is a case of unjust punishment, they should bear it. Christians should be responsible and faithful in carrying out their duties. God rewards faithfulness, although men do not recognize it. To buttress his point, Peter cited the case the unjust suffering of Jesus as an example.

SIGNIFICANCE OF PETER'S TEACHING

1. Peter describes Christians as a chosen race and a royal priesthood. Meaning that Christians are God's own people.
2. The Christians have replaced the Jews who had always regarded themselves as chosen race.
3. God now requires Christians to declare by their good ways of life, and not by mere calling the name.
4. Christian should maintain good conduct and live a life worthy of the gospel of Jesus Christ and show good examples to the unbelievers.
5. Where people make false allegation against them, their decent life of righteousness will stamp out such false allegation.
6. As people liberated from the curse of the law, they must not use their freedom as a pretext for evil.
7. Christians should fear God, respect the government and love one another (brotherhood).

Assignment

Briefly explain two ways Christians discriminate against the non-Christians.