



The process

- Took longer than originally planned
- Revealed additional things that needed to be addressed
- Cost more than anticipated
- Required more work than we thought

1 Peter 3:15a

But in your hearts set apart
Christ as Lord.

Heart

The seat of your sensibilities,
affections, emotions, desires,
appetites, passions

Christ –Messiah

The freedom giver The sight restorer
The oppression lifter The favor proclaimer
The lost saver

Lord

He has power of deciding

Set apart

Make the choice

Heart

Set Apart

Christ

Lord

Romans 12

Vs 1

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship.

Vs 2

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- His good, pleasing and perfect will.

Here I am God
I offer myself to you
Please speak
I will listen
When I hear I will do

Vs 15b

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have

Be *the*

This

Christ

Access

Ultimate Word

Speople

Eternal Life

1 Peter 3

Vs 15

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

Vs 15-16

But do this with gentleness and
respect...

Why?

Because the questions may:

- Seem foolish or ignorant
- Sound threatening
- Be ask from a spirit of sarcasm
- Come when you are having a challenging day

Vs 16

...keeping a clear conscience,
so that those who speak
maliciously against your good
behavior in Christ may be
ashamed of their slander.

Vs 16

...keeping a clear conscience...

What is a clear conscience?

Keep your heart in
relationship with God

Heart

Set Apart

Christ

Lord

Without a clear conscience I
will find myself at odds with
the world, with myself, and
with God

With a clear conscience I may
still be at odds with the world
and perhaps even some parts of
myself but not with God

Vs 16

...so that those who speak
maliciously against your good
behavior in Christ may be
ashamed of their slander

You will have people that will
ask you about your hope, your
life in Christ

And you will have people that
will be less than supportive of
your life in Christ

Speak maliciously

spiteful, critical, undermining

Vs 16

...so that those who speak
maliciously against your good
behavior in Christ may be
ashamed of their slander

2 Timothy 3:12

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted...

Ed's paraphrase of

2 Timothy 3:12

“In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus can be assured that there will be an effort to shut them down”

How do I continue to walk in
Christ when there is an effort to
shut it down in my life?

The reasons for trying to shut down one's walk in Christ

- You are cramping their life
- They do not like what you stand for

- Fear – their own and for you
- What you are doing sounds crazy
- They do not think you are considering all the risks

Do not mistake godly counsel
for persecution

Do not try to pretend to give
godly counsel when it is really
persecution

How do I continue to walk in
Christ when there is an effort to
shut it down in my life?

#1 Confirm

Confirm that you are walking
in Christ

Psalm 139:23-24

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

#2 Pray

Matthew 5:44

But I tell you: Love your
enemies and pray for those
who persecute you...

#3 Continue

Galatians 6:9

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

How do I continue to walk in
Christ when there is an effort to
shut it down in my life?

Confirm–Pray–Continue

1 Peter 3:15-16

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.