

1 Peter:

It's Not Optional, but It's Completely Voluntary

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

¹¹ Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

1 Peter 2:9-12 (NIV)

If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it."

Genesis 4:7 (NIV)

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God

Romans 12:1 (NIV)

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

Ephesians 4:1 (NIV)

I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.

Philippians 4:2 (NIV)

As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. ² For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 4:1-2 (NIV)

And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another. ⁶ And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.

2 John 1:5 (NIV)

KEY THOUGHT: IF YOU JUST DEAL WITH BEHAVIOR AND NEVER GET TO DESIRES, THAT IS A GOOD WAY TO BUILD A _____.

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. ²⁶ Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.

²⁷ "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. ²⁸ In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

Matthew 23:25-28 (NIV)

WHAT IS OUR MOTIVATION?

- We are _____.
- These desires are at _____ with you.

Beloved, I implore you as aliens and strangers and exiles [in this world] to abstain from the sensual urges (the evil desires, the passions of the flesh, your lower nature) that wage war against the soul.

1 Peter 2:11 (AMPLIFIED)

*Hate evil, love good;
maintain justice in the courts.
Amos 5:15 (NIV)*

WHAT IS OUR CLUE FOR SUCCESS?

- _____.

*Can a man scoop fire into his lap
without his clothes being burned?*

*²⁸ Can a man walk on hot coals
without his feet being scorched?*

Proverbs 6:27-28 (NIV)

ONE LAST MOTIVATION...

- Your Life _____ a _____.