

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. 1 Peter 3:15-16 (NIV)

Lord

What does that mean? What does what mean? **What does it mean that I am Lord?** Let me start by saying that you are not just Lord generally. You are Lord specifically of my life. By that, I mean you have authority over my life. You are in charge of my life. I have bowed myself down to you. I want your will to reign over my life. You are on the throne of my life. I can say more. **Go ahead, I am listening.** I am not the evaluator of you. You are the evaluator of me. If my thoughts or words or actions are not in alignment with you, someone has got to change and its not you. If your word says something is true, I dare not think it is false. If your word says one thing, I better not do another. If your word says something is false, it would be foolish to think it was true. My heart and mind and life are centered on you. I want all my thoughts and words and actions to be pleasing to you. I have set you apart as Lord of my life because I love you with all my heart and mind and soul and strength. It is my joy to live my life with or for you. I could have no greater peace or joy or hope than I do in loving, following and serving you. **That is very good.**

Will you keep silent about the peace and hope and joy you have in me? Is this a secret that only you should know? No, not at all. I want to share the good news. I want to be a bold witness for you. I want to shine brightly as a witness for you in the world. I want others to wonder and ask why I have such radiant hope and joy within me. Speak through me. Help me to lead others to you. Use my life to help others to come to know and love and follow and serve you. Let the good that you are doing in and through me speak powerfully to others so that they will want to live their lives with you both now and forever. **That I will do. I will shine brightly in and through your life. You will bear fruit for my kingdom and bring glory to my name.** Thank you, Lord.

Lord, I have set you apart in my heart as my Lord. I know you will make me able to think and speak and act in ways that are pleasing to you. Give me opportunities to share the reason for the hope that I have in you. Help me to shine brightly in the world for you. Amen

Becoming Like Christ *Set Apart Christ As Lord*

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.

NIV 1 Peter 3:15-16

Becoming Like Christ *Worship Christ As Lord*

Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ.

NLT 1 Peter 3:15-16

Becoming Like Christ *Sanctify Christ As Lord*

but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame.

NRSV 1 Peter 3:15-16

Becoming Like Christ *Set Christ Apart As Holy As Lord*

But in your hearts set Christ apart as holy [and acknowledge Him] as Lord. Always be ready to give a logical defense to anyone who asks you to account for the hope that is in you, but do it courteously and respectfully. [And see to it that] your conscience is entirely clear (unimpaired), so that, when you are falsely accused as evildoers, those who threaten you abusively and revile your right behavior in Christ may come to be ashamed [of slandering your good lives].

AMP 1 Peter 3:15-16

Becoming Like Christ *Sanctify Christ As Lord*

but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.

NASB 1 Peter 3:15-16

Becoming Like Christ *Honor Christ The Lord As Holy*

but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

ESV 1 Peter 3:15-16

Becoming Like Christ *Sanctify The Lord God*

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.

NKJV 1 Peter 3:15-16

Becoming Like Christ *In Adoration Before Christ*

Through thick and thin, keep your hearts at attention, in adoration before Christ, your Master. Be ready to speak up and tell anyone who asks why you're living the way you are, and always with the utmost courtesy. Keep a clear conscience before God so that when people throw mud at you, none of it will stick. They'll end up realizing that they're the ones who need a bath.

MSG 1 Peter 3:15-16

Becoming Like Christ *Trust Yourself To Christ Your Lord*

Quietly trust yourself to Christ your Lord, and if anybody asks why you believe as you do, be ready to tell him, and do it in a gentle and respectful way. Do what is right; then if men speak against you, calling you evil names, they will become ashamed of themselves for falsely accusing you when you have only done what is good.

TLB 1 Peter 3:15-16

Becoming Like Christ *Respect Christ As The Holy Lord*

But respect Christ as the holy Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to answer everyone who asks you to explain about the hope you have, but answer in a gentle way and with respect. Keep a clear conscience so that those who speak evil of your good life in Christ will be made ashamed.

NCV 1 Peter 3:15-16

Set Apart Christ As Lord

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Becoming Like Christ – 1 Peter 3:15-16

In Context: *Read 1 Peter 3*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

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Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

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. 1 Peter 3:15-16 (NIV)

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, I have set you apart in my heart as my Lord. I know you will make me able to think and speak and act in ways that are pleasing to you. Give me opportunities to share the reason for the hope that I have in you. Help me to shine brightly in the world for you. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

How are you setting apart Christ in your heart as your Lord over your life?

How is loving Christ with all your heart motivating your desire to follow and serve Him?

How is the Lordship of Christ over you guiding the way you think, speak and act?

How prepared are to give the reason for the hope in Christ that you have within you?

How gentle is your speech toward those who want to know more about following Christ?

Why can you expect to be slandered simply because you are a follower of Jesus Christ?

When has your good behavior caused someone to be ashamed of slandering you?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Set apart Christ in your heart as Lord over your life so that you will think, and speak and act in ways that please Him.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that setting apart Christ as Lord will change your heart and transform the way that you think, speak and act.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group when you have shared the reason for your hope in Jesus Christ.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May setting Christ apart as Lord guide the way you think, speak and act.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will set you apart as my Lord so you can guide all my thoughts, words and actions.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how will you guide my thoughts, words and actions as I set you apart as Lord?
