**Things you need – Moral Excellence**

**1 Pet. 1: 5**

**The need for moral excellence in a world of immoral carelessness**

The term moral excellence = virtue, the quality of doing what is right & avoiding what is wrong

1. Pro. 14:16 – A wise man is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is arrogant and careless
2. Pro. 19:16 – He who keeps the commandment keeps his soul, but he who is careless of conduct will die
3. Ezek. 16:49 – Behold this is the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had arrogance, abundant food and careless ease, but she did not help the poor and needy
4. Matt. 12:36 – But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment
5. Acts 2:40 – Be saved from this perverse generation
6. Isa. 59:8 – they do not know the way of peace, and there is no justice in their tracks, they have made their paths crooked, whoever treads on them does not know peace
7. 2 Pet. 2:10 – especially those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires and despise authority
8. Jude 1:8 – yet in the same way these men, also by dreaming, defile the flesh, and reject authority, and revile angelic majesties
9. Jude 1:18 – in the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts
10. Jude 1:19 – these are the ones who cause divisions, worldly minded, devoid of the Spirit

**Believers are called to the glory & excellence of God - 2 Pet. 1:3**

***seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence***

1. 2 Pet. 1:4 – for by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust
2. By the new birth believers experience the glory of God & His excellence through Jesus Christ the Lord
3. John 17:22 – the glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one
4. Rom. 6:4 – therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life
5. John 1:16 – for of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace

**Believers are to add moral excellence to their faith – 2 Pet. 1:5**

***Noe for this reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence…***

1. Believers by faith practice moral excellence in their life style & relationships
2. Believers learn to approve of things of moral excellence – Phil. 1:10
3. Believers meditate on moral excellence in Christ & in His people
4. The Lord Jesus has a more excellent name – Heb. 1:4
5. The Lord Jesus has a more excellent ministry as High Priest in the heavenlies – Heb. 8:6
6. The Lord Jesus is filled with the fullness of God bodily – Col.1:19

**Believers are to proclaim the excellencies of the Lord Jesus Christ to a perverse world 1 Pet. 2:9 –**

***But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light***

1. Proclaim the excellence of saving grace
2. Proclaim the excellence of the cross of the Lord Jesus
3. Proclaim the excellence of resurrection of the Lord Jesus
4. Proclaim the excellence of ascension of the Lord Jesus
5. Proclaim the excellence of power of God to save sinners
6. Proclaim the forgiveness of God to sinners

**Believers are to practice moral excellence in the world of immoral carelessness**

**1 Pet. 2:1, 11 – 21**

1. 1 Pet. 2:1 – put aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander
2. 1 Pet. 2:5 – offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ
3. 1 Pet. 2:11 – as aliens and strangers abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul
4. 1 Pet. 2:12 – Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation
5. 1 Pet. 2:13 – submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human institution
6. 1 Pet. 2:15 – for such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men
7. 1 Pet. 2:16 – act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bond slaves of God
8. 1 Pet. 2:17 – Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king
9. 1 Pet. 2:18 – Servants be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable
10. 1 Pet. 2:19 – 20 - this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly. For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God

**Believers practice moral excellence by the example of the Lord Jesus Christ – 1 Pet. 2:21**

***For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps***

1. He committed no sin – 1 Pet. 2:22
2. No deceit was in His mouth – 1 Pet. 2:22
3. Reviled He did not revile in return – 1 Pet. 2:23
4. While suffering He uttered no threats – 1 Pet. 2:23
5. He kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously – 1 Pet. 2:23
6. He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin & live to righteousness for by His wounds we are healed – 1 Pet. 2:24