

Do you have a ready answer?

I Peter 3:15. “But sanctify the Lord God in your own hearts, and always be prepared to give an answer to anyone who asks you the reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and reverence;” ([A Faithful Version](#))

What does it mean to have a ready answer? Did Peter mean to make sure you are incapable of losing an argument? When we think about the attitude, demeanor, and patience of Our Savior Jesus Christ, we know that was not Peter’s intent. What Peter meant was pretty basic – when a person loves God, they diligently study His word and are equipped and willing to discuss His truth to everyone who asks.

Some key words to focus on are meekness and reverence.

Meekness (what I struggle immensely with) – mildness of disposition, gentleness of spirit, humility (Strong’s: G4240).

Reverence – fear, dread, terror (Strong’s: G5401). Synonyms – respect, admiration, worship, devotion, etc.

Again, we are to have discussions meekly in fear and respect for God the Father, because of “the hope” within us. The hope that comes from being given the gift of God’s truth and our calling from the Father ([John 6:44](#)).

What if the questions are ‘hot button topics?’

With the constant barrage from our adversary, how are we to handle uncomfortable situations? What if we are asked about alphabetical perversions? Satan’s holidays? Why we don’t go to parties on the Sabbath?

Can we lie? No!

How about we take Peter and Paul’s inspired guidance. We have a meek and reverent, ready answer while simultaneously not allowing “[any corrupt communication](#) {to} [come out of your mouth](#) ([Ephesians 4:29](#)).”

Sometimes the best answer for my kids is, ‘You’re not old enough to understand that yet.’ However, this is never in relation to questions about the Bible, salvation, how to treat others or obeying God. I tend to answer this way when it is a topic for adults only. Our kids need to be taught that we follow God’s Word and His instructions for us from the Bible. Again, lying is never the answer.

Sometimes for me it’s better to avoid an obvious argument - “I’m sorry sir / ma’am, I’d prefer to not discuss that.” Another situation I still have difficulty with; keeping my big mouth shut. This is typically when they ask a question about something going on in the world, not with the Bible.

I feel like Satan's holidays are fairly simple. "My family doesn't celebrate that because it's not in the Bible and I've discovered they are all based on Pagan traditions."

The Sabbath can be a bit more complicated. As soon as you mention to someone for the first time that your family honors the Sabbath, the next sentence is always, "Oh, so you're a Jew." Personally, I tell people that Jews did not exist at the time that God blessed the world with the 10 Commandments. In most cases, it's a pretty short conversation where the person walks away thinking I'm nuts. But every so often, the person is actually curious and takes the time to sit down and open up to God's Word with me.

When they do, it's fun to read Leviticus 23. Especially when God says four separate times in the same chapter that they "[shall be a statute forever in all your generations.](#)" [Leviticus 23:14, 21, 31, 41.](#) After that, I recommend they do additional studies to prove it for themselves.

What I really love

I absolutely love when someone is willing to sit down and discuss the Bible with me. Although each encounter is different, I feel like it can be a pretty simple study. So let's do it.

Get out your Bibles –

What did Christ say in the New Testament about obeying the Commandments? Some examples –
([Matthew 5:17-19](#), [Matthew 19:16-17](#), [Mark 7:6-9](#), [Mark 10:18-19](#), [Luke 1:5-6](#), [Luke 18:20](#) (repeat), [John 14:15](#), [John 15:10](#))

Additional verses about obeying God's commandments.

[I John 2:3-4](#), [I John 3:22](#), [I John 5:2-3](#), [II John 6](#), [I Corinthians 7:19](#), [I Corinthians 14:37](#), [Revelation 22:14](#)).

More in depth-

[Matthew 22:36.](#) "Master, which commandment *is the* great commandment in the Law?"
[37.](#) And Jesus said to him," 'You shall love *the* Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'

[38.](#) This is *the* first and greatest commandment;

[39.](#) And *the* second *one is* like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

[40.](#) On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

([A Faithful Version](#))

Let's talk about [Matthew 22:37-40](#) and [Mark 12:29-31](#). In summary, Matthew says that "a doctor of the law" and Mark says "one of the scribes" asked Jesus, 'what is the greatest commandment?' Christ answered in both gospel accounts in summary: '[love God with all your heart, soul and mind and the second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself.](#)' These two gospel accounts alone and with no further knowledge of the Bible can tell a person that they have to obey at least two generalized commandments. Guess what? They are right! BUT it doesn't stop there - read the very next verse in Matthew; "[On these two commandments hang](#)

ALL the Law and Prophets.” What this means is, commandments 1-4 cover how to love God with all your heart, soul and mind, and commandments 5-10 cover how to love your neighbor as yourself. Ask yourself this; can you love God the way He wants to be loved without obeying all his laws, statutes, holy days and commandments? Can you love God however you want as long as you are sincere and He will automatically accept it? No we cannot love God on our terms.

God does NOT ask too much of anyone. The fact that He gave His Only Begotten Son for us by means of torture and ridicule should be enough for everyone to submit to God’s requirements.

What does it mean to have a ready answer for our kids?

Proverbs 22:4 – “Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

Ephesians 6:4 – “And fathers, do not provoke your children; but bring them up in *the* nurture and admonition of *the* Lord.”

More in depth-

Deuteronomy 6:1. “Now these *are* the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments which the LORD our God commanded to teach you so that you might do *them* in the land where you go to possess it,

2. That you might fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you, and your son, and your son’s son, all the days of your life, and so that your days may be prolonged.

3. Hear therefore, O Israel, and be diligent to *observe* it, so that it may be well with you, and that you may greatly multiply, as the LORD God of our fathers has promised you, in the land that flows with milk and honey.

4. Hear, O Israel. Our one God is *the* LORD, *the* LORD.

5. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

6. And these words which I command you this day shall be in your heart.

7. And **you shall diligently teach them to your children**, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up.

8. And you shall bind them for a sign upon your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.

9. And you shall write them upon the posts of your house and on your gates.”

([A Faithful Version](#))

So what is the ‘ready answer’ for our kids? Simple, whatever God has commanded us! We are specifically told that we “shall diligently teach them to your children.”

[Luke 14: 26.](#) "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brothers and sisters, and, in addition, his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.
27. And whoever does not carry his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple;”

The above verse is not saying to literally hate your family, Luke is saying that God must be first in our lives – which is the first of all God’s Commandments. We cannot allow anyone or anything to get in the way of obeying God. *One of Strong’s definitions for this verse says “by extension to love less” (Strong: G3404).

“On the other hand, unwillingness to accept God's will in all things produces in us a resistance to obey accompanied by complaining. If this resistance to accepting what God has dealt to us were not there, we would have no reason to complain. Murmuring and disobedience go together, and murmuring is sin.” - John W. Ritenbaugh

Can we have a ready answer for people who don’t believe the Bible is the Word of God-

The answer is yes.

Paraphrasing - If the Bible is false, or as some say, just a story, but you live by it anyway, you will obey all of God’s Laws. By obeying God, you WILL live a better life. If the Bible is true and you live by every word of it, you can achieve salvation. So what does a person have to lose by obeying God? Nothing! However, what can they gain? Everything!

Of course we know the Bible is “God-breathed and is profitable for doctrine, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness (II Timothy 3:16).” However, even if that person does not believe that at the time they present you with that question, we all know that if they truly begin to obey God’s voice, they will very likely agree the Bible is the Word of God.

Ready Answer for Holy Days-

When speaking to a ‘curious’ worldly person, I have found this topic to be a deal breaker for people as it rarely comes up when there is enough time to truly sit down and dissect the topic from the Bible. I have also found that sending someone a sermon on the topic has not worked for me either. For some reason, most people will agree they should obey God. They may even agree they should obey God’s Commandments. However, when you tell someone they can’t put a tree in their living room, decorate it and wrap up thousands of dollars in gifts, they get bent out of shape. Even Matthew 7:13-14 does not seem to work. It’s mindboggling that self-identified Christians can read in the Bible that they are supposed to be different than the world but not recognize ‘worldly’ holidays as part of that.

Nevertheless, initially I keep it simple and tell them I avoid worldly holidays because the Bible repeatedly spells out we are to be separate from ‘the world.’ Sometimes I explain that we are blessed with seven Holy Days.

Since Christmas is such a big deal, I tell them we have an 8 daylong celebration called The Feast of Tabernacles where we go on an awesome vacation with our family of God.

I try to not ‘get wrapped around the axles.’ It’s pretty easy to tell when a person has lost interest as they continually repeat that those weird holy days were just for ancient Israel. It’s funny because to this day, I still have never gotten a good response to the question of why ancient

Israel had to obey God but we don't. The only absurd thing they can say is that Christ died for our sins therefore we're all saved no matter what we do.

I could continue with this writing incessantly but I think we all get the point.

We should have a ready answer for biblical/spiritual questions. Even when they are difficult. When it comes to worldly situations where we are being 'baited' into a political debate, we can choose to be silent and intentionally avoid an obvious argument.

Let's have a ready answer. Love you guys.

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