

# **STRENGTHENING OUR LIP**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

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A. *“And who is he that will harm you, if ye be zealous of that which is good? But even if ye should suffer for righteousness’ sake, blessed are ye: and fear not their fear, neither be troubled; but sanctify in your hearts Christ as Lord; being ready always to give answer to every man that asketh you a reason concerning the hope that is in you, yet with meekness and fear;” v 13-15.*

1. Don’t give conflicting answers.
2. Say one thing - Do something else.

B. OUR ANSWER MUST BE:

1. Clear.
2. Firm.
3. Sure.
4. Definitive
5. Believable. (Not like a double minded man”.

C. In I Peter 3, let us note some things that will “Strengthen Our Lip”.

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## **BELIEVABILITY**

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A. THE BELIEVABILITY OF OUR MESSAGE IS STRENGTHENED BY CONSISTENT ACTION BASED ON INFORMED CONVICTION.

1. See TEXT:
2. The Christian who knows what he believes and why, who stands by his convictions without compromise will be respected even by those who are not yet ready to believe.
3. True, he may at times suffer but at least he is suffering for doing good rather for doing evil.
4. In the final count, “who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good?” v. 13.

B. Many who have persecuted or criticized Christians have eventually believed.

1. They accepted the message when they saw that it meant enough to Christians to die for it.
  2. Cf. Saul of Tarsus.
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### **BY GODLY EXAMPLE**

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#### A. OUR EFFORTS TO TEACH Are Strengthened By Godly Example. v. 1,2.

1. *Likewise you wives, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe you chaste conduct accompanied by fear."*
2. Two people who love God and each other should be able to agree."

#### B. The principle of this lesson applies in all relationships.

1. Christians should be the best workers, students, executives, etc.
  2. In every plant, school or office.
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### **BY INNER CHARACTER**

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#### A. OUTWARD NATURAL BEAUTY IS STRENGTHENED BY INNER CHARACTER.

1. *"Whose adorning let it not be the outward adorning.....let it be the hidden man of the heart, in the incorruptible apparel of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price."* v. 3-5.
2. *"For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves..."* e.g. Sarah.

#### B. Male/female roles were set in nature by God.

1. He does not expect both to compete for the same roles; they complement each other. It is no insult to each to be fully what God created each to be.
  2. Women are especially pivotal in God's plans for the human family.
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### **BY ACTIONS**

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#### A. Human Relationships Are Strengthened By Actions that are accompanied by Sincere Conviction and Compassion.

1. *"Be of one mind, having compassion for one another..."* v.8.
2. *"Love as brothers"* v. 8c. Christians are a family.
3. *"Be tenderhearted..."* v. 8d. Kindness and compassion are a cardinal trait
4. *"Be courteous"* v 8e. Human relationship are weakened by rudeness.  
Why is this command less important than Peter's command in Acts 2:38?

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B. Not Rendering Evil For Evil or Reviling for Reviling, but ...bless. v.9.

1. *"Refrain his tongue from evil...speak no guile. v. 10, Col. 4:6. James 3.*
  2. *"Turn away from evil and do good...seek peace" v. 11.*
  3. PRAY. As a righteous person, not as one who does evil. v. 12.
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### **CONCLUSION**

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A. ONE'S CONSCIENCE TOWARD GOD IS STRENGTHENED BY FULL, CAREFUL OBEDIENCE TO GOD!

1. *"Which also after a true likeness doth now save you, even baptism, not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the interrogation of a good conscience toward God, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ." v 21.*
2. Peter has just referred to the eight souls who were saved through water when Noah built the ark.

B. Just as the water was a point of transition to bring them from the old world of filth into a new world.

1. God uses Baptism in a manner that corresponds to it.
  2. It is not a physical bath, that removes dirt from the body.
  3. It has a spiritual consequence in that we make our appeal to God for a clear conscience by obeying this form of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.
  4. Cf. Rom. 6:3-6; 16-18; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16.
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