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# *The Pursuit of Holiness*

## *I Serve Jesus Best When...*

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*New Hope Community Church  
Dr. Jack Bracy, April 29, 2018*

<sup>13</sup> Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled,

Don't Let Other People Stop You from Living Right  
Even If They Turn Up the Heat

### **I Serve Jesus Best When Jesus Matters Most**

<sup>15</sup> 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, <sup>16</sup> having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup> For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

#### 1. When Jesus Matters Most, Jesus Comes First in Every part of My Life

Before I Can Live Right I Have to Get Right

#### 2. When Jesus Matters Most I Get Prepared to Make A Defense for The Hope Within Me

Prepared: A State of Readiness

While People Will Be Attracted to The Gospel,  
They Will Be Repelled by God's Demand for Holiness

The Guide for Behavior in America Is Based on What  
Feels Right for The Individual

"There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death." *Proverbs 14:12, NLT*

“Those who trust their own insight are foolish, but anyone who walks in wisdom is safe.” Proverbs 28:26, NLT

Just Telling People They Are Wrong DOES NOT WORK

“Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth.” **2 Timothy 2:15, NLT**

### 3. When Jesus Matters Most Sharing Jesus Is as Natural as Breathing

Being A Follower of Jesus Is So Much More Than Right Living ...  
It's About Being A Light in Another Peoples Darkness

Our Hope is The Gospel of Jesus Christ

<sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,

Sharing Jesus Is Natural to Those Whose Nature Has Been  
Changed by Love

### 4. When Jesus Matters Most I Treat Everyone with Love and Respect

“But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there.” **Galatians 5:22–24, NLT**

“But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.” **1 John 1:9, NLT**