Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1 Peter 3:18-22

Our Reigning Lord

Getting Started

Describe a recent occasion when you had an opportunity to share something about your faith in Christ.

Background

Peter has been exhorting his readers to remain faithful in spite of persecution. Note how 3:18-22 contributes to this purpose.

Digging In

1. **Read 3:8-22**. Write a one-sentence summary of this passage.

2. **Read v. 18.** What does it mean that *Christ died for sins*?

3. What does it mean that he *died for sins* ***once for all***?

4. In what sense is Christ *the righteous*? Who are the *unrighteous*? Explain what this means.

5. Think carefully about the last phrase in v. 18. What does it mean that Christ died for our sins **to bring us to God**?

6. **Read 3:19-22**. This passage has puzzled many commentators. The most persuasive interpretation is that, after his resurrection, Christ proclaimed to evil supernatural powers his victory on the cross and their certain defeat and judgment. How would this knowledge give encouragement to Peter's readers?

7. How does Peter make it clear that by *baptism* he's not just referring to the sacrament of being dipped in water, but to the whole process whereby someone repents and trusts in Christ?

Getting Personal

- What does it mean to you personally that Christ died to bring you to God?

- In what ways are you cultivating and enjoying the relationship with God that Christ made possible?

- How can the assurance of Christ's authority over all supernatural powers give you hope and encouragement in facing an uncertain future, even one in which you might suffer persecution?