

Conformed to the image of Christ: Christ's Excellencies!

- This is my hope for WHEC for the year 2021!
- This was also Peter's hope the Church diaspora!

“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; 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.” (2 Peter 1:2-3)

I) **Definition of “Excellence”**

- The quality of being outstanding or extremely good.
- Archaic: an outstanding feature or quality.

III) **Biblical imperative calling for “Excellence”**

- “Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, ⁶ and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, ⁷ and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love.” (2 Peter 1:5-7)

III) Seven Hopes for WHEC in 2021!

A) May you rest in His most excellent hope: “hope in the Lord!”

- ☐ “Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.” (Isaiah 40:31)

B) May you intimately know God and Christ’s excellence!

- ☐ “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.” (2 Peter 1:2-3)

C) May you “proclaim the excellencies of Him!”

- “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; ¹⁰ for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.” (1 Peter 2:9-10)

D) May you excel in Christ’s “moral excellence!”

- “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 Peter 1:4)
- “Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. ¹² Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles,” (1 Peter 2:11-12)

E) May you “be excellent” as He is excellent!

- ☐ “but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; ¹⁶ because it is written, “YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.” (1Peter 1:15-16)
- ☐ They were utterly astonished, saying, “He has done all things well; He makes even the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.” (Mark 7:37)

F) May you apply “all diligence” in pursuing excellence!

- ☐ “Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge,” (2 Peter 1:5)
- ☐ “Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.” (Colossians 3:23-24)

G) May God be most glorified through our excellence in 2021!

“...through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.” (2 Peter 1:3-4)

“Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” (1 Corinthians 10:31)

“For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, As the waters cover the sea.” (Habakkuk 2:14)