

1 Peter 3:13-16

1. Who will hurt you for doing good? (v. 13)
2. Even if some people do, you're blessed (v. 14a)
3. So don't fear people, but honour the Lord (v. 14b)
4. Always being ready to defend your faith (v. 15a)
5. With gentleness and respect (v. 15b)
6. So that no slander can stick (v. 16)
7. Summary: How to defend your faith

1. Share how you've seen God at work in this previous week (perhaps in answer to prayer requests), or other ways you've seen his goodness.
2. What insight, principle, or observation from the message did you find most helpful, most challenging, or most troubling? Please explain.
3. We learned on Sunday that we are to "give a defence for the **hope** that is in us" (1 Peter 3:15).
 - a. Do you "feel like" doing this when your faith is in a rough spot? When it feels like the "hope that is within you" is weak?
 - b. Should you do it anyway?
 - c. Revisit the following from 1 Peter: 1:3-5; 8-9; 23-25:
 - What are some objective roots of our hope? What are some subjective experiences of our hope?
 - Do we have a "hope within us" to defend, even on our worst day as a Christian, when we feel no hope? When does Peter say we need to be ready?
 - What does this mean practically for us as we live our lives out before the world? Brainstorm ways to share both our objective hope in Jesus' work, and the experience of that hope in ways that point to Jesus and not ourselves.
4. On Sunday we learned that it is *generally* true that doing good, and not repaying evil for evil will invite peace with man.
 - a. Have you experienced this to be true? Do you have any examples from your life or a friend's life that display this general rule?
 - b. It is certain that though this rule is generally true, we are also told there are times where our faith will prevent peace (Matthew 10:34-36). However, is it possible that there are times when Christians use their faith as an explanation for the lack of peace with their fellow man, when in reality they are just failing to live peaceably as quiet exiles on earth?
 - c. How may this hurt our witness? What causes this (James 4:1-3)? How does this behaviour make it hard for the world to believe we have hope within us?
 - d. Consider the following verses: Hebrews 12:14; Romans 12:18; Proverbs 16:7; James 3:17-18. Discuss the tension of the division which the gospel brings, and our command to be at peace with others. How can you be a peaceful, convictional exile this week?
5. Pray together and ask God to display our hope, Jesus, to the world.

Next Week's Passage: 1 Peter 3:17-22