

1 Peter 3:13 - 17

Experiencing Victory in a Hostile World

“... a primer for winning the war that really matters”

Developing Confidence In a Hostile World (Part 1)

Round-table Questions / Exercises

Choose a leader at your table to play the role of facilitator for the following questions.

Please be prepared to share with the larger group...

1. If you were here last week, share a few insights about what you learned as to savoring abundant life and experiencing “good days” ?
2. Do you believe our society is losing its meaning and values? If so, how? What are some of the implications of that on our culture and on us?
3. Read 1 Peter 3:13-17. Is living with a passion for goodness a guarantee against suffering? Why or why not? Provide examples.
4. Can you think of people in Scripture who suffered excellently? If so, how did they go about having the ability to do that well?
5. Peter commands his readers to “*not be troubled*”. What does this really mean? How can we practically do this?
6. In what way are we “*blessed*” if we “*suffer for the sake of righteousness*”?

Today's Learning Objectives:

That we would understand Peter's principles of how believers can develop _____ in the face of growing threats from an _____ and evermore _____ world.

1 Peter 3:13-17

13 And who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? 14 But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled, 15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; 16 and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. 17 For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.

Become Passionate About _____(13)

"And who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good?"

- Peter asks a rhetorical question here... obviously, most people, even hostile ones, won't harm us for doing what is good
- "Prove" – Means to "*become*"; our character should be in pursuit of being _____
- "Zealous" – Means "*intensity*" or "*enthusiasm*" for a specific cause; we get our word "_____" from this root
- "Good" – refers to a life characterized by generosity, unselfishness, kindness and thoughtfulness (verses 8-9)
- To become confident in a hostile world, Peter first asks us to become "*fired up*" for what is _____ and/or "good"

Become Willing to _____(14, 17)

“But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled... For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.”

- *“But even if you should suffer”* – communicates the idea of *“perchance”* or *“contrary to what is expected”* and connects with *“should suffer”* which implies that there is no _____ that suffering will happen, but it _____! (1 Peter 5:10; 2 Corinthians 4:16-14; Revelation 2:10)
- *“For the sake of righteousness”* – this means on account of the _____ or for the sake of the _____ or for His name’s sake (James 1:2-4, 12; *Matthew 5:10-12*; *Romans 5:3-4*; *Revelation 14:3*)
- *“You are blessed”* – text doesn’t emphasize the effect, such as happiness or joy, but the _____ behind such an *“honor”* (Luke 1:42; 2:35; 1:26-35) or *“privilege”* (James 1:2-4, 12; *Matthew 5:10-12*; *Romans 5:3-4*; *Revelation 14:3*)
- *“And do not fear their intimidation”* – means *“do not fear their fear”* or don’t be intimidated by unbelievers who would persecute them (Isaiah 8:12b-13)
- *“And do not be troubled”* – literally means to *“not be _____ or _____ up”*. How can we practically do this?
- *“If God should will it so”* – The only reason we are allowed to suffer at all for doing what is right is that God has determined such through His divine wisdom!
- There are only two possibilities as to suffering...
 - *“For it is better... that you suffer for doing what is right”* – This one is to accept God’s wise and sovereign plan for _____ in our lives; His plans will emerge and be disclosed over time through suffering (1 Peter 4:13-14, 16, 19)
 - *“Rather than for doing what is wrong”* – This one is to receive the just outcome for _____ His Word (1 Peter 2:20; 4:15; Hebrews 12:5-11)