

LIVING IN EXILE

¹ Peter 3:13-17 – Apologia

May 1, 2016

...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... **-1 Peter 3:15**

I. FEAR NOT

- Generally speaking, those who do good are not punished or persecuted, even in a fallen world (Prov. 16:7; Luke 23:13-22).
- We live for eternity, not for this temporal world. Even when we suffer unjustly, there is an eternal blessing waiting in the wings (Ps. 34:19-20; John 16:33; 2 Cor. 4:16-18).
- Christians serve God, the King of kings and Lord of lords, therefore they have no fear of man (Ps. 27:1; 46:1-3; 118:5-7; Luke 12:4-5).

II. APOLOGIA - MAKING A DEFENSE

- Our first defense: setting apart Christ as holy (1 Peter 1:14-15; 3:16).
- Our second defense: preparation (2 Tim. 2:15; 2:24; Titus 1:9).
*Consider the promise of Jesus here as well as in Luke 12:11-12.
- Our third defense: a winsome spirit and a clear conscience (2 Tim. 2:24-26).
- Our fourth defense: being in the right and people knowing it (Prov. 25:21-22; Rom. 12:19-21; 1 Tim. 5:25; 1 Peter 2:12).

KNOW: We are not to fear those who threaten us when we are innocent, but we are to be prepared to give a defense (apologia) for the reason we hold fast to our faith even though persecuted. Our witness, however, must always be done respectfully and honestly.

DO: Set apart Christ as holy, and prepare yourself.

Suggested Reading:

Mere Apologetics, by Alister McGrath

Defending Your Faith, by R.C. Sproul

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read 1 Peter 3:13-17

1. Peter speaks of suffering for righteousness sake. What causes that kind of suffering? Do we have biblical examples of that type of suffering? If so, name a few and talk about what they teach us.
2. Is it really a good trade to suffer here but be blessed in eternity? Do we really believe that? Talk about that.
3. How can we develop courage in the coming days, as the church and as individual Christians, as we begin to suffer for standing up for the faith? What do you think will happen to the church in the West when it begins to suffer true persecution?
4. We spoke extensively about being prepared in Sunday's message. What does being prepared look like for you? What steps can you take to either continue or begin to be prepared to defend your faith?
5. What does having a good conscience look like as a follower of Christ? How do we develop that?
6. So, biblically, is it ever God's will that we suffer for doing good? If yes, how does that make you feel?
7. What are two or three take-away points for you in this passage?