

“Are You Ready to Defend Your Faith?”

I Peter 3:13-17

July 1, 2012

1. Be passionate for what is “good.”

*“Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good?” (13)*

2. Be at peace about opposition.

*“But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled...” (14)*

3. Be purposeful – Christ is Lord of my life!

*“But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy...” (15a)*

4. Be prepared.

- Answers –What is the reason for your hope? (15b)
- Attitudes- With gentleness and respect? (15b)

5. Be pure.

- Have a good conscience. (16)
- Be consistent in doing God’s will. (17)

**Application:**

1. What fears have you had that has kept you from being bold for Christ? Is Christ truly Lord of your life?
2. What attitudes need to change toward people that do not know Christ? Write down the basic reason for the hope that you have in Christ? Why do you have hope?

Bible Study Questions/ Discussion  
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1. Rate your level of confidence in sharing your faith-(1-10 with 10 meaning the most confident) Why? What has been your experience when you first tried to witness? What obstacles have you faced?
2. According to I Peter 3:13, what should we be zealous about? If we call ourselves Christ-followers, what did He do? (Acts 10:38; Jn. 10:32) What comes first before doing good? (Psalm 37:3; Titus 2:11,14; Eph. 2:8-10)
3. When we receive some opposition or persecution what should we conclude? (I Peter 3:14) (Also Matt. 5:10) Discuss the element of fear in our attempt to witness. What are we afraid of? (Compare John 9:22; 7:13; Prov. 29:25)
4. In order to have power in witnessing you must first be clear about Jesus being the Lord of your life. (I Peter 3:15) What does this mean? (Rom. 10:9) What are the negative consequences of people who witness that do not understand this principle?
5. Peter encourages us to be prepared. What kind of answers should we be ready to have? (I Peter 3:15) Why is the "Christian hope" so unique? Discuss the power of a message of hope. (I Thess. 4:13; 5:8; Prov. 10:28)
6. What is the wrong attitude to have when talking to people and what is the right approach? (3:15) Define "gentleness." (Eph. 4:2) (Also 2 Tim. 2:25; Rom. 2:4) Define the attitude of "respect."(Isa. 8:13)
7. The persuasion of the Christian in witnessing comes down to what according to 3:16? What is the definition of a "good" conscience? We should be fully committed to doing the right thing no matter what. What does the Lord's Prayer say about God's will? (Matt. 7:10)
8. Pray for one another to be aware of Divine appointments and to have the courage to respond with love and truth.