

Sermon Notes

“Overcoming the Pain of Injustice”

1 Peter 3:8 – 4:6

November 8, 2015

7. 1 Peter 3:15 tells us to “set apart” (NASB: “sanctify”; ESV: “honor ... as holy”) Christ as Lord in our hearts. What does it mean to set apart Christ as Lord in your heart? What does this have to do with returning blessing for insult, not fearing intimidation, and explaining the hope within us? How could you more faithfully set apart Christ as Lord of your thoughts and actions?

8. Read 1 Peter 4:1-6. “Strange” in 4:4 means “contrary to nature.” Have you ever experienced ridicule for the reason 4:4 describes? Is so, how did you respond? Why did you react in that way? What response could you use when you are mistreated in the future?

Let's Pray:

For our missionaries:

Steve and Erin Voss, Expeditions Unlimited, Baraboo, WI

Pray for balance between camp ministry and family life.

Pray that we would not retaliate with evil, insult, or deceit when we are mistreated (3:9-11).

Pray that we would trust God when in painful situations, setting Christ apart as Lord in our hearts (3:15).

Pray that we would adopt the attitude of Christ to live for the will of God above all else (4:1-2).

Introduction:

1. Adopting Christ's _____ (4:1-6).

2. Returning a _____ (3:8-17).

Peter's Prescribed Response

Our Situation	Step 1	When Suffering for your Faith	
		DO THIS	AVOID THIS
Our Response	Step 2	Trust God	
	Step 3	Speak Graciously	
	Step 4	Behave Excellently	
The Results	Step 5	Silence Detractors	
	Step 6	Glorify God	
	Step 7	Get Rewarded	

Conclusion:

3. Peter tells us to give a “blessing” to those who insult or injure us (3:9). What do you think he means by this command? (You might compare with Luke 6:27-28.)

Luke 6:35-36 and 1 Peter 3:9 give two reasons why we should bless those who insult us. What are those reasons?

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 11-8-15

Questions adapted from 1 Peter: *Life Change Series*, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1986, pp. 81-91; Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Hopeful*, Victor Books, Wheaton, IL, 1982, p. 150; John MacArthur, 1 & 2 Peter: *Courage in Times of Trouble*, Thomas Nelson, Nashville, TN, 2007, pp. 29-36; James Galvin, ed., et al., *New Testament Lesson Maker*, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1992, pp. 314-15.

Getting Started:

1. What childhood fight do you remember most vividly?

Digging Deeper:

2. READ: 1 Peter 3:8-17. In 3:8, Peter lists five adjectives describing the attitudes with which Christians should treat other people, especially other Christians. These qualities should underlie all our actions, but in this context particularly our response to abuse. Peter urged Christians to:
 - a. Live in harmony. Literally, “be of one mind.”
 - b. Be sympathetic. Enter into and share the feelings of others.
 - c. Love as brothers. Tender affection, feelings of closeness and kinship.
 - d. Be compassionate. “Kindhearted” (NASB), or “have ... a tender heart” (ESV)
 - e. Be humble. Lowly.

Which of the attitudes in 3:8 do you find hardest to live by? Why do you think it is so difficult for you?

4. In 1 Peter 3:10-12, Peter is quoting Psalm 34:12-16. Explain in your own words what these verses say we should do to attain joy in life and answers to prayer.

5. Paraphrase 3:13. Do you think Peter means that no one will try to harm you if you intend to do good? See 2 Timothy 3:12.

6. What question should you always be prepared to answer (1 Peter 3:15)?