

Suffering Well in Exile

1 Peter 3:8-17

We bring glory to God in the midst of persecution by...

1. ...loving one another with unity and compassion. (v. 8)
2. ...blessing others because we have been blessed and are to be blessed. (vv. 9-12)
3. ...responding well to mistreatment because of Jesus. (vv. 13-17)

FURTHER UP, FURTHER IN

1. What is persecution? Share an example of how you have been persecuted for your faith. How does this compare with stories of persecution from around the world and throughout history? Compare persecution and martyrdom.
2. Read 1 Peter 3:8. Discuss each of the virtues that are mentioned and how they are demonstrated in the church. What is the flow of thought? Do you agree with the symmetry of this passage and the “chiastic” structure? Compare unity of mind and a humble mind. Compare sympathy and a tender heart. How are these related to brotherly love? 1 Cor. 1:10, Gal. 6:2, 1 Thess. 4:9, Eph. 4:32, Phil. 2:2-4, Rom. 12:15-16
3. Read 1 Peter 3:9. Discuss the command here. Is this easy or difficult for you to follow? How are we empowered to follow this command? What is the purpose of us blessing those that are persecuting us? Matt. 5:9, Rom. 12:14, 1 Cor. 4:12-13, 1 Thess. 5:15, Rom. 5:10
4. Read all of Psalm 34. How does this Psalm help you understand the section that Peter quotes? Read 1 Peter 3:12. How does this help us understand God’s righteousness?
5. Read 1 Peter 3:13-17. What stands out to you? Are you afraid of what people think of you because you are a Christian? Do we worry more about how other people think of us or how God views us? Read Matt. 10:28, Matt. 5:11-12, Isaiah 8:12-13.
6. What does it mean to give a defense of the hope that is in us? What is your understanding of Christian apologetics? How well prepared are you to give a defense for your faith?
7. Read vv. 16-17, how do we “suffer well” when we are mistreated for being followers of Jesus? What should we keep in mind when we are reviled? Where should our focus be?
8. Passages to consider for above discussion: 2 Cor. 5:20, Phil. 1:7,16, 1 John 3:21-22, Heb. 10:22, Matt. 5:16, Rom. 12:20-21, Col. 1:24.

Apologetics resources: str.org, reasonablefaith.org

“I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now. . . . Come further up, come further in!” — C.S. Lewis, *The Last Battle*