

# "FACING OPPOSITION AS AN EFFECTIVE WITNESS"

## I Peter 3:13-17

**MAIN IDEA:** You can be an effective witness for Christ even in the midst of opposition.

11/4/18

### **FIRST PETER**

- *Introduction (1:1-2)*
- *Salvation (1:3-2:12)*
- *Submission (2:13-3:12)*
- *Suffering (3:13-5:11)*

➤ *Responding to Our Persecutors (3:13-4:6)*

### **I. WHAT CAN HAPPEN WHEN WE DO \_\_\_\_\_ (I Peter 3:13-14a)**

We will often be \_\_\_\_\_ when we do what is good and right.

#### **A. Even in suffering, there is \_\_\_\_\_ for the believer (I Pet. 3:13).**

- If God is \_\_\_\_\_ over you and \_\_\_\_\_ to you (cp. 3:12a), who can truly harm you?
- Even the one who does \_\_\_\_\_ (cp. 3:12b) will be able to truly do \_\_\_\_\_ to you.

#### **B. Even in suffering, there is \_\_\_\_\_ for the believer (I Pet. 3:14a).**

- Even though we do good, at times we will \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_ that we do (cp. I Pet. 2:19-20; 3:14-17; 4:12-16, 19).
  - *Suffering for the sake of \_\_\_\_\_ (I Pet. 3:14; Matt. 5:10-12)*
  - *Suffering for the sake of \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt. 5:10-12; 10:18, 39; 16:25; Mark 8:35; 10:29; Luke 6:22; II Cor. 12:10; Phil. 1:29)*
  - *Suffering for the sake of His \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt. 19:29; Acts 5:41; 9:16)*
  - *Suffering for the sake of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Mark 8:35; 10:29)*
- Even though we suffer, we are \_\_\_\_\_ (cp. I Pet. 1:6-7; 3:14; 4:12-14; 5:10-11).
- This particular suffering refers to \_\_\_\_\_ from unbelievers (3:14-17).

### **II. WHAT SHOULD HAPPEN WHEN WE ARE \_\_\_\_\_ (I Peter 3:14b-17)**

We should be an effective \_\_\_\_\_ when we are opposed. Four responses to facing opposition:

#### **A. A \_\_\_\_\_ that conquers \_\_\_\_\_ (I Pet. 3:14b)**

- Fear can keep us from \_\_\_\_\_ (Jer.1:8; Ezek. 3:9; Acts 18:9-10).
- Fear gives us a wrong \_\_\_\_\_ of the situation (Psa. 118:6; Isa. 8:11-14).

#### **B. A \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ as \_\_\_\_\_ (I Pet. 3:15a)**

- "Sanctify" means to "\_\_\_\_\_."
- We must set apart Christ as \_\_\_\_\_ in our hearts.

#### **C. A \_\_\_\_\_ of our \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ (I Pet. 3:15b)**

- \_\_\_\_\_ we must communicate: a \_\_\_\_\_ (a speech in defense)
  - *False \_\_\_\_\_ were being brought against them (I Pet. 3:16).*
  - *They were being asked to give an \_\_\_\_\_ (cp. Acts 19:38, 40; Rom. 14:12).*
- To \_\_\_\_\_ we must communicate
  - *A \_\_\_\_\_ scene: we are on "trial" and asked to defend our faith (cp. Matt. 10:18-20; Acts 4:8-12; 5:29-31; 21:39; 22:1).*
  - *A \_\_\_\_\_ seeker: someone curious about what you believe or how you live (cp. John 4:6-15)*
  - *A \_\_\_\_\_ sinner: under conviction, desiring salvation (cp. Acts 16:30-31)*
  - *A \_\_\_\_\_ situation: turning the conversation to spiritual things and seeking to communicate our hope (cp. Col. 4:5-6)*
- \_\_\_\_\_ we must communicate
  - *With \_\_\_\_\_*
  - *With \_\_\_\_\_*
  - *With \_\_\_\_\_*
  - *With a good \_\_\_\_\_*

#### **D. A \_\_\_\_\_ that is \_\_\_\_\_ (I Pet. 3:16-22)**

- Godly behavior results in an \_\_\_\_\_ conscience (3:16).
- Godly behavior results in an \_\_\_\_\_ defense (3:16).
- Godly behavior sometimes results in \_\_\_\_\_ suffering (3:17-22).

❖ Evaluate your \_\_\_\_\_, . . . how much of your suffering results from opposition due to your stand for Christ?

❖ Evaluate your \_\_\_\_\_, . . . how many of the four elements of an effective witness for Christ are lacking in your life?

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**MAIN IDEA:** You can be an effective witness for Christ even in the midst of opposition.

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- *Responding to Our Persecutors (3:13-4:6)*

## **I. WHAT CAN HAPPEN WHEN WE DO GOOD (I Peter 3:13-14a)**

*We will often be opposed when we do what is good and right.*

### **A. Even in suffering, there is victory for the believer (I Pet. 3:13).**

- If God is *watching* over you and *listening* to you (cp. 3:12a), who can truly harm you?
- Even the one who does *evil* (cp. 3:12b) will not be able to truly do *evil* to you.

### **B. Even in suffering, there is blessedness for the believer (I Pet. 3:14a).**

- Even though we do good, at times we will *suffer* for the *good* that we do (cp. I Pet. 2:19-20; 3:14-17; 4:12-16, 19).
  - *Suffering for the sake of righteousness (I Pet. 3:14; Matt. 5:10-12)*
  - *Suffering for the sake of Christ (Matt. 5:10-12; 10:18, 39; 16:25; Mark 8:35; 10:29; Luke 6:22; II Cor. 12:10; Phil. 1:29)*
  - *Suffering for the sake of His Name (Matt. 19:29; Acts 5:41; 9:16)*
  - *Suffering for the sake of the gospel (Mark 8:35; 10:29)*
- Even though we suffer, we are *blessed* (cp. I Pet. 1:6-7; 3:14; 4:12-14; 5:10-11).
- This particular suffering refers to *persecution* from unbelievers (3:14-17).

## **II. WHAT SHOULD HAPPEN WHEN WE ARE OPPOSED (I Peter 3:14b-17)**

*We should be an effective witness when we are opposed.* Four responses to facing opposition:

### **A. A courage that conquers fear (I Pet. 3:14b)**

- Fear can keep us from *speaking* (Jer.1:8; Ezek. 3:9; Acts 18:9-10).
- Fear gives us a *wrong perspective* of the situation (Psa. 118:6; Isa. 8:11-14).

### **B. A commitment to Christ as Lord (I Pet. 3:15a)**

- “Sanctify” means to “*set apart*.”
- We must set apart Christ as *Lord* in our hearts.

### **C. A communication of our hope in Christ (I Pet. 3:15b)**

- *What* we must communicate: a *defense* (a speech in defense)
  - *False accusations were being brought against them (I Pet. 3:16).*
  - *They were being asked to give an account (cp. Acts 19:38, 40; Rom. 14:12).*
- *To whom* we must communicate
  - *A courtroom scene: we are on “trial” and asked to defend our faith (cp. Matt. 10:18-20; Acts 4:8-12; 5:29-31; 21:39; 22:1).*
  - *A curiosity seeker: someone curious about what you believe or how you live (cp. John 4:6-15)*
  - *A convicted sinner: under conviction, desiring salvation (cp. Acts 16:30-31)*
  - *A casual situation: turning the conversation to spiritual things and seeking to communicate our hope (cp. Col. 4:5-6)*
- *How* we must communicate
  - *With readiness*
  - *With gentleness*
  - *With respect*
  - *With a good conscience*

### **D. A conscience that is clear (I Pet. 3:16-22)**

- Godly behavior results in an *unaccusing* conscience (3:16).
- Godly behavior results in an *unanswerable* defense (3:16).
- Godly behavior sometimes results in *unjust suffering* (3:17-22).

❖ *Evaluate your suffering. . . how much of your suffering results from opposition due to your stand for Christ?*

❖ *Evaluate your witness. . . how many of the four elements of an effective witness for Christ are lacking in your life?*