

# LIVING SECURE AMIDST HOSTILITY

Sunday, January 25, 2026 -- 1 PETER series -- msg 26 -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

1 PETER 3:13-17

English Standard Version (ESV)

**13** Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? **14** But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, **15** 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; yet do it with gentleness and respect, **16** having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. **17** For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

## REVIEW & CONTEXT:

Peter's overarching theme is **HOLY LIVING** amid \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.  
This letter answers the question: **HOW SHOULD WE \_\_\_\_\_?**

**Ch. 1:1-2:12:** Christians are a chosen people, set apart to declare God's excellencies even while living as sojourners and exiles in a hostile culture.

**Ch. 2:13-3:12:** Christians are to live a **holy life** in regards to government, employment, marriage and relating to the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Ch. 3:13-4:11** Christians can \_\_\_\_\_ to suffering in a godly way.

## CENTRAL THEME:

**Living secure amidst hostility** is possible because true Christians belong to Christ and are destined for glory. So, they are called to \_\_\_\_\_, have \_\_\_\_\_ of persecutors and bear \_\_\_\_\_ in a world that misunderstands them.

Peter is teaching Christians ho to live faithfully when obedience to Christ brings \_\_\_\_\_ rather than \_\_\_\_\_.

## HOW TO LIVE SECURELY AMIDST HOSTILITY:

### I. THE NORMAL EXPECTATION: Living for Christ Sometimes Brings \_\_\_\_\_. vs 13-14a

vs 13 "Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good?

vs 14a But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed."

1. Peter acknowledges that people *usually* do not persecute \_\_\_\_\_. vs 13
2. Then Peter recognizes that *sometimes* you will suffer for \_\_\_\_\_. vs 14a.
3. And Peter reminds that GOD \_\_\_\_\_ and GOD \_\_\_\_\_. vs 14a  
(Matthew 5:10-12 — Don't forget Jesus's explicit \_\_\_\_\_!)

**13** Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? **14** But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, **15** 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; yet do it with gentleness and respect, **16** having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. **17** For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

## II. THE CENTRAL COMMAND: Fear \_\_\_\_\_, Not \_\_\_\_\_ vs 14b-15a

vs 14b "Have no fear of them, nor be troubled,

vs 15a but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy."

- Peter once again echoes back to the Old Testament— God's Word.

ISAIAH 8:12-13

*12 Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread. 13 But the Lord of hosts, **HIM** you shall honor as holy. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.*

Ancient Israel feared conspiracies and threats. We can too if we are not careful.

- Notice that Peter applies this directly to \_\_\_\_\_. vs 15a  
*but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy*

This is what you call \_\_\_\_\_.

What Isaiah said about Yahweh, Peter applies to Jesus!

- Notice that the FEAR is not eliminated but \_\_\_\_\_.  
Proverbs 29:25; Luke 12:4-5; 1 Peter 1:17

Pressure will reveal what you \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ the most.

## III. The Missional Calling: A Hope-Filled, Gentle, Clear \_\_\_\_\_ vs 15b

*"Always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect."*

- Christian hope should be evident enough to \_\_\_\_\_.  
• Hope is not merely internal. It is can be seen when under pressure.
- When someone asks, "**Why/How do you have hope!??**"  
• Be \_\_\_\_\_.  
• Be \_\_\_\_\_.  
• Be \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_.

The \_\_\_\_\_ in which we respond matters as much as the \_\_\_\_\_!

**13** Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? **14** But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, **15** 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; yet do it with gentleness and respect, **16** having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. **17** For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

#### IV. THE MORAL SAFEGUARD: A Before God vs 16

*"Having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame."*

1. Christians \_\_\_\_\_ slandered. Not \_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_.

1 Peter 2:12; 4:4

2. The goal is **not** vindication—but \_\_\_\_\_. vs 16

God knows how to manage your \_\_\_\_\_.

A clear conscience before God is greater than \_\_\_\_\_.

3. This anticipates \_\_\_\_\_.

ROMANS 12:19

*Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."*

#### V. THE GOVERNING PRINCIPLE: It is Better to Suffer for \_\_\_\_\_ vs 17

*"For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil."*

1. Notice that God is sovereign over your situation and your \_\_\_\_\_.

Sometimes suffering is \_\_\_\_\_. You can fight it, but it is better to \_\_\_\_\_ it.

2. Not all Suffering is equal:

Deserved suffering — \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_.

Undeserved suffering — \_\_\_\_\_.

3. This points us to Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ (which we will see in vs 18 next week)

Christ suffered for us, once and for all, righteously, redemptively.

We learn to walk in \_\_\_\_\_. 1 Peter 2:21

#### APPLICATION/REFLECTION:

- 1) Have you come to the place of HONORING CHRIST AS HOLY in your heart? Is He \_\_\_\_\_?
- 2) Who does your behavior indicate you fear more, \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_?
- 3) Are you willing to \_\_\_\_\_ for the name of Christ? For His purposes?
- 4) How can you \_\_\_\_\_ to explain your hope if/when you are asked?