

FACING A HOSTILE WORLD
(1 Peter 3:13-17)

- I. Demonstrate a PASSION for GOODNESS (1 Pet. 3:13)
 - A. May mean that NO ONE is CAPABLE of doing REAL harm to a believer
 - B. May mean that FEW would HARM someone ZEALOUS to do GOOD
 - 1. Energetically striving to BE and DO good rarely provokes INJURY
 - 2. The one who responds with VIOLENCE is acting PERVERSELY

- II. Maintain a WILLINGNESS to SUFFER (1 Pet. 3:14)
 - A. You may SUFFER for the sake of RIGHTEOUSNESS
 - 1. It won't happen ALL THE TIME
 - 2. It won't happen to EVERY CHRISTIAN
 - 3. It will happen to SOME
 - B. If you do, you are BLESSED
 - 1. You REMAIN blessed even if you SUFFER for righteousness

2. Your SUFFERING is itself a BLESSING (cf. 5:10; Jms. 1:2-4; 2 Cor. 4:16-18)

C. Therefore, do not be AFRAID (cf. Isa. 8:12-13)

1. Don't fear what they FEAR

2. Don't fear what they THREATEN

3. Don't be TROUBLED

III. Depend on a DEVOTION to CHRIST (1 Pet. 3:15*a*; cf. Isaiah 8:13)

A. AFFIRM your SUBMISSION to Him

1. His CONTROL

2. His INSTRUCTION

3. His GUIDANCE

B. DECLARE and SUBMIT to His SOVEREIGN majesty

1. Recognize His PERFECTION

2. Magnify His GLORY

3. Extol His PRE-EMINENCE

C. DEMONSTRATE that you fear ONLY HIM