

FACING A HOSTILE WORLD, part 2
(1 Peter 3:13-17)

- I. Demonstrate a Passion for Goodness (1 Pet. 3:13)
- II. Maintain a Willingness to Suffer (1 Pet. 3:14)
- III. Depend on a Devotion to Christ (1 Pet. 3:15*a*; cf. Isaiah 8:13)

- IV. Prepare to DEFEND the FAITH (1 Pet. 3:15*b*)
 - A. We must “make a DEFENSE”
 - 1. Involves FORMAL defense in COURT
 - 2. Includes INFORMAL answer to QUESTIONS

 - B. We must be ALWAYS PREPARED

 - C. We must answer “EVERYONE who ASKS”
 - 1. We are “on TRIAL” for our faith EVERY DAY
 - 2. We need to be PREPARED to give a RATIONAL answer to all INQUIRIES

 - D. We must be prepared to EXPLAIN “the HOPE” in us
 - 1. He does *not* demand that we resolve every ETHICAL challenge or explain all THEOLOGICAL subtleties
 - 2. EVERY Christian must be able to give a REASONABLE account of what you BELIEVE and have EXPERIENCED

 - E. We must explain with GENTLENESS and REVERENCE

- V. Safeguard a “GOOD CONSCIENCE” (1 Pet. 3:16)
 - A. “Conscience” is a God-implanted mechanism that EVALUATES the MORAL quality of our actions
 - 1. It can either ACCUSE or EXCUSE us
 - 2. It is not INFALLIBLE
 - B. A “GOOD conscience” is produced through SALVATION and SANCTIFICATION
 - 1. It is CLEANSED at our REBIRTH (Heb. 9:14; 10:22)
 - 2. It is TRAINABLE and must be MAINTAINED
 - C. A good conscience is an important DEFENSE against SLANDER
 - 1. Some will REVILE you for your GOOD behavior
 - 2. They will “be put to SHAME”

- VI. Recognize Two CAUSES for SUFFERING (1 Pet. 3:17)
 - A. You can suffer for doing what is WRONG
 - B. It is BETTER to suffer for doing what is RIGHT
 - 1. You are in FELLOWSHIP with the suffering CHRIST
 - 2. It may SILENCE or even CONVERT your CRITICS
 - C. Such suffering comes only if GOD WILLS it so