

March 15, 2015

## The Reason I Peter 3:13-18

### Introduction

When Jesus entered Peter's life, this fisherman became a new person with new goals and new priorities. Jesus' first words to Simon Peter were "Come, be my disciple" (Mark 1:17). Peter had a fishing business which he left to follow Jesus (John 21:22). When Jesus chose his followers, he wasn't looking for models; he was looking for real people. He chose people who could be changed by his love, and then he sent them out to communicate that his acceptance was available to anyone—even to those who often fail.

### Discussion Questions

1. Because today's society is very hurried, many communications are sent in brief statements. David shared this as one of the reasons to be prepared to give a brief answer to someone who questions why we believe what we do about Jesus. Are there examples of this in your own life? What answer would you give if someone asks why you believe in Jesus?
2. Believers can be criticized for their faith and some are even persecuted for it. What criticism or persecution have you or someone you know experienced standing strong for their faith in Christ? Did it result in losing faith or strengthening one's faith in Christ? Explain why?
3. The first sentence in 1 Peter 3:15 states, "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord." What does it mean to set apart Christ as Lord? How does that prepare a person to always be ready to give everyone a reason for the hope we have? What suggestions should be considered in setting apart Christ as Lord on a daily basis?
4. The second sentence in 1 Peter 3:15 states, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have." What is the best answer you would give to express the hope you have in Christ?
5. The third sentence in 1 Peter 3:15-16 states, "But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander." David said our actions need to match our answers (our faith). How consistently do your actions match your faith? What can you do to be more consistent?
6. "I believe Jesus died for my sins and rose from the dead" is all we need to start a conversation. What is it about that statement that diffuses any defensive reaction someone might have about the reason for our hope?

### Conclusion

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." Galatians 5:22-23 My hope in Christ needs to be matched by my actions. Are you pleased with your actions?