

1 Peter 3:8-12

V8

Community values as a Christ follower.
- Different than the culture.
If the church did all 5 - life would be good!

Concluding the House of Cist - Christians, slaves, Masters, wives, Husbands. - extends to all

Present imperative - oops

Finally, all of you, be

like minded - to the teaching of the apostles

(a) Sympathetic - to people while you/ to people who don't know the redeeming power of Christ

(b) love one another - in the body? Brothers love > Family

(c) be compassionate - caring / connect w/ their pain vs be judgmental

(d) and humble - not thinking more highly of yourself, not proud

Hostility, Defamation of character, Verbal abuse, Emperor, Master, Husband - etc. of those who think differently.

Counter cultural to Greco Roman culture which was competitive and stratified

- confirm to these -> Harmony around the teachings.

> understanding know the redeeming power of Christ

V9

Connects to purpose for his letter how to deal w/ hostile people outside the community of faith.

How to deal w/ a hostile world

(I) Soldier cleaning boots for critic

Command Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult.

On the contrary, repay evil with blessing

because to this you were called

Why? - repaying w/ blessing all in favor of God

i.e. don't do what's natural - from you

Requires self control = fruit of the Spirit

cf 1 Peter 2:23 ex. of Jesus not retaliating when they insulted him. Jesus models a better way (cf Lk 6:27-28)

so that you may inherit a blessing

From God

You don't earn a blessing you inherit it

not quid pro quo.

Explanatory For

Whom would love life and see good days

Conditional

Original context = David & the Philistines

Applies to Christians

From 2nd person to 3rd person.

Positive outcomes desired - this life / life to come?

V10

The point why same call to return blessing and good for evil / insult

Must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech

connect to insult

Parallel

V11

Reminder that the Lord rescues his own when they suffer

They must turn from evil and do good

They must seek peace and pursue it.

deliberate - conscious effort i.e. -> not repay it

repay evil w/ blessing.

- Doem + come easy

V12

Explanatory For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears attentive to their prayers

Contrast but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil

Always true. -> God is watching.

1 Peter 3:13-17

v13 to v12. connects. And who is going to harm you ^{left out of NIV - could be "Therefore" or "Now" in their right minds}

Another option → Refers to the future and the "last days"

General Principle But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. ^{conditional or clarification v13 isn't true} you are eager to do good? ^{character issue Many were in Asia minor avoiding sin, participating in pagan rituals, etc.}

v14 Do not fear their threats. Do not be frightened. ^{Don't give in to the negative. Instead} But in your hearts ^{place where moral decisions are made. R old NIV - set apart? R remain faithful.} revere Christ as Lord. ^{God has your back. Background Isa 8:12 - "because the Lord is with us."}

v15 Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have. ^{Not directly related to Christian apologetics. Not just "in court"} But do this with gentleness and respect. ^{not individually but as Christians. In relationship to suffering unjustly or to repaying evil with blessing. - being ready to do good - Not fearing threats etc.}

v16 Keeping a clear conscience so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. ^{Not lying. Not making up "facts"? Why? Integrity! Honesty. enemies/mentors, officials, others. It will be so evidently obvious you're wrong.}

Plato - suffering injustice is better than doing injustice. 167

Explanatory For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. ^{Li = obedience + blessing. ST live at a higher ethical standing level}