

Until They Ask Us Why

1 Peter 3:8-16: Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. **9** Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. **10** For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. **11** They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it. **12** For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." **13** Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? **14** But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." **15** But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, **16** keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

If we want to have a positive impact on those whose salvation we are praying for, we must _____ and _____.

Ingredients of attractive fellowship (verse 8):

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

How to respond to persecution: Verses 9-15

How to speak persuasively (verses 15-16):

- Be _____, not _____.
- Be _____, not _____.

• Be _____, not _____.

• Be _____, not _____.

Transformed by the Truth

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. How would you describe the "world" in which God calls you live as a Christian? In what ways are your family, workplace, neighborhood and community supportive of your faith? In what ways have you experienced opposition to your faith? _____
2. Read 1 Peter 3:8. Which of these ingredients of attractive fellowship is most lacking in your life? How can you begin to cultivate this trait? _____
3. Read 1 Peter 3:9-14. In what ways do you think you have experienced persecution? How have you responded to it? _____
4. Read 1 Peter 3:15. If someone were to ask you why you are a Christian, what would you say? If they were to ask you how to become a Christian, what would you say? _____
5. Read 1 Peter 3:16. If your witness for Christ consisted of nothing but your behavior, would you have a clear conscience? What is one way that the Spirit of God is nudging you to live a more Christlike life? _____