

Living in Exile: Apologetics of Community

1 Peter 3:8-17

1 Peter 3:8 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. 17 For it is better, if it is God’s will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

BI: Two kinds of apologetics are needed, today, [community](#) –

I. The apologetics of community (1 Peter 3:8)

II. The apologetics of [your](#) response (3:9-17)

III. The embodiment of Christ [in](#) you in your apologetics (3:15-16)

Next week – apologetics related to the content of the GOSPEL

Application in Community

Welcome: Grace is a place to belong. If you would like to get connected in our community, ask for Tiea Hanson at the Information Center or email her at tieah@gracechurchseattle.org or give us a call 206.937.8400.

Application Questions:

1. Think of your story, when you first seriously considered Christianity and if you should convert, what was it that compelled you to investigate further? A conversation? Good sermon? A friend? Tell us the story –
2. Statistically, people are most likely to come to Christ because a friend introduced them to Christian community. And then, over time, the person saw Christianity as believable because they liked the people. Think about that as you read this quote:

“Modern Christianity has developed a rational apologetic... But the problem is not an intellectual problem. The problem is hearts that refuse to live under God’s reign. We reject God. It is a relational problem. And if it is a relational problem, it requires a relational apologetic.

“What will commend the gospel are lives lived in obedience to the gospel and a community life that reflects God’s triune community of love... And they see that it is good to know God as they see the love of the Christian community. As Francis Schaeffer said, ‘Our relationship with each other is the criterion the world uses to judge whether our message is truthful. Christian community is the ultimate apologetic.’”

(Chester and Timmis, *Total Church*, 175-176).

- What do you think of this quote in terms of practicing faith?

3. Now read 1 Peter 3:8-17 in light of this quote (key in on vv. 15-16) – what ought this look like *in your life* when you think of faith, church, and people you know who need Jesus?

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