
HOLY LIVING IN A HOSTILE WORLD

SUFFERING 101: WHEN GOOD IS RETURNED WITH EVIL (1 Peter 3:13-16)

A. The Rhetorical Question (13)

1 PETER 3: [13] *Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good?*

B. The Possible Responses of Unbelievers (14a)

[14] *But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed.*

1. The Assumed (and Usual) Response: “Nobody”

2. The Uncommon (but Possible) Response: “A hostile world”

a. The cause of these sufferings

- “zealous for what is good” (13), “righteousness” (14), “good behavior” (16), “doing what is right” (17)

b. The nature of these sufferings

- “insult” (9), “slander” (16), “revile” (16)

c. The reward for these sufferings

- “blessed” (14)

C. The Required Responses of Believers (14b-16a)

1. The Negative Responses

a. Do not be intimidated

AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION,

b. Do not be troubled

AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED,

2. The Positive Responses

a. Our primary (internal) responsibility

i. Sanctify Christ as Lord in our heart

[15] *but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts,*

b. Our associated (external) responsibilities

i. A reasoned response

always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you,

ii. A respectful demeanor

yet with gentleness and reverence;

iii. A righteous life

[16] *and keep a good conscience*

D. The Intended Result of our Response (16b)

so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.