

The Book of 1 Peter

What it Means to Set Apart Christ as Lord

1 Peter 3:13-17

“(SIV- Therefore/so) Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good?”

Peter is not referring to harm in this life by unbelievers but to ultimate judgment. People in this world cannot do you ultimate harm. *1 Peter 3:12, Romans 8:31*

“But (SIV- Indeed) even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed.”

Suffering at the hands of unbelievers does not contradict v. 13. If you suffer *for Christ* it is evidence that you are one of God’s true children. You are blessed New Covenant style! *1 Peter 4:13-14, Matthew 5:10-12*

“Do not fear what they fear, do not be troubled” *Isaiah 8:12 (8:11-17)*

OT Background: The Northern Kingdom (Israel) and Aram were threatening to remove the Southern Kingdom’s (Judah’s) king Ahaz and install a puppet king named Tabeel. This scared them (7:2). But God promised to save Judah and to have Assyria squash Israel and Aram. Judah and Ahaz simply need to trust God and fear Him alone. Isaiah is told not to fear Israel and Aram like Judah does.

NT Interpretation: Believers are in the place of Isaiah (and the remnant) and the world is in the place of Ahaz and Judah. We are not to fear physical or emotional harm or rejection like the world does. This world is not our home. Have other worldly fear! *Matthew 6:32, Hebrews 13:11-14, Matthew 10:28*

“In Your Hearts, Set Apart (hagiasate) Christ as Lord”

This is the antidote to fear of man. This is very similar to the prayer in Matthew 6: “hallowed (hagiastheto) be your name.” He must be our ultimate treasure, the one we love, the one we fear, and the one we want the world to worship more than we want our own comfort. *1 Peter 4:1, Psalm 63:2, 3*

“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 (SIV-fear).”

- The way you do good to those who do evil to you will cause people to ask you about what you live for since it is so clearly not how they would respond. Primary context...interrogation?
- You should be able to clearly and persuasively articulate the reason for your hope in Christ. This is more than the Gospel but not less.
- Most likely Peter had in mind gentleness or humility toward people and fear of God. *1 Peter 2:18*

“Keeping a clear conscience (Good Conscience)”

We live before the face of God every moment. So when we give an answer to our enemies, we must stand strong and not shrink back. *Hebrews 10:35-39, Daniel 3:13-18*

“...so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander”

When will they be ashamed? They will be put to shame in the judgment. This is not about their psychological state as they persecute us, but about their eternal state. Some unbelievers will be converted and some will revile us and persecute us to the bitter end. *1 Peter 2:12, 2 Corinthians 2:14-16*

“It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.”

- Sometimes it is God’s desire that you suffer for His name’s sake!
- Why is it better to suffer for doing good things than evil things? Because those who do evil will suffer in judgment forever, while those who do good will simply suffer here for a brief lifetime. *2 Corinthians 4:16-18*