

Series: How to Keep the Faith through Tough Times  
Scripture: 1 Peter 3:8-22  
Date: August 10, 2008

### HOW TO RESPOND WHEN YOU'RE TREATED UNFAIRLY

The apostle Peter tells us three ways we are to respond when we are treated unfairly...

**I. LIVE WITH \_\_\_\_\_ TOWARD YOUR FELLOW \_\_\_\_\_!**  
[8] *Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.*

Who is the "all of you"? Peter is addressing \_\_\_\_\_.

*Four actions...*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ with others.
2. Have a genuine \_\_\_\_\_ for others.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ for others.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ others for \_\_\_\_\_ they are.

### **II. RESPOND \_\_\_\_\_ TO UNFAIR TREATMENT!**

*Three ways to respond to unfair treatment...*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_!  
[9] *Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but 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 his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech. [11] He must turn from evil and do good; he 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*

2. Fear \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_!  
[14b] *"Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened." [15] But in your hearts set apart 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.*

*Matthew 10:28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.*

3. Persevere with \_\_\_\_\_!  
[17] *It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.*

### **III. LET \_\_\_\_\_ BE MY EXAMPLE!**

1. He suffered even though he did \_\_\_\_\_ wrong!  
[18a] *For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.*
2. He suffered \_\_\_\_\_!  
[18b] *He was put to death in the body...*
3. He was \_\_\_\_\_!  
[18b-21] *but made alive by the Spirit. [19] through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison [20] who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, [21] and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also-- not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,*
4. He was \_\_\_\_\_!  
[22] *who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand-- with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.*

*Luke 6:22-23 Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. [23] "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their fathers treated the prophets.*