

# Let's Talk At More Length About Unfair Suffering<sup>1</sup>

## 1 Peter 3:13–17

**A facetious question! The expected answer: lots of people!**

<sup>13</sup> Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good?

**You may suffer! You will be blessed!**

<sup>14</sup> But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed.

**The proper attitude:**

Have no fear of them, nor be troubled,

Why should a follower of Christ have no fear when it seems like the whole world is against us?

**The best preparation:**

<sup>15</sup> but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared **to make a defense** to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you;

What is the hope we have in us?

**APOLOGIA:** to speak on behalf of oneself or of others against accusations presumed to be false; to defend oneself, to prove one's innocence.

**An acceptable demeanor:**  
yet do it with **gentleness and respect,**

**PRAUTAYS:** gentleness of attitude and behavior in contrast to harshness. See EP 4:2.  
**PHOBOS:** profound respect. In other contexts, fear.

**No skeletons!**

<sup>16</sup> having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

Our conscience is the voice within.

**In conclusion:**

<sup>17</sup> For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

Where have we seen God's will mentioned in Peter before? See 2:9, 15, 21.

**Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. 1 Peter 4:12–13**

**The question for all of us who are Christ's followers is, are we ready?**

<sup>1</sup>Message prepared by and shared with the congregation of West Salem Baptist Church and friends, in captivity, by Dr. Paul Null, Sunday, June 7, 2020. Citations from Scripture are from the English Standard Version of the Bible.