

First, we should set aside our hearts as the place where Christ is fully honored as the Lord. Peter instructs Christians to focus intently on Christ's role as our master, living as if that were absolutely true in all cases, even in suffering. Peter calls us to full submission to Christ.

When we set apart Christ as Lord, it will change us. Peter says those who observe us will notice the difference. That difference is hope. Even in the midst of our suffering, our hopefulness should be apparent. So, Peter instructs us to be ready to answer the question our life *should* inspire.

Peter anticipates people will become curious. Hopefulness and joy are starkly different from the normal human response to suffering. So much so that people will be eager to understand it. We must be prepared to give our defense, to make the case for faith in Christ who suffered and died.

The Greek word translated as "make a defense," or "give an answer" is *apologian*, from the root word *apologia*. This is not related to the English word "apology," where one expresses regret or remorse. Rather, the term means a justification, or an "answer back," or a reason.

Finally, it matters how we make that case for Christ. We must present it with gentleness and respect. Christians are not called on to condemn those who are curious about our hopefulness. Nor are we to be vindictive, vengeful, or insulting to those who disagree. Rather, we should explain our faith without harshness or dismissiveness.

3. Have you ever tried to have a conversation with someone about your faith, and if so, what happened?

4. Look again at 1 Peter 3:13-18. What strikes you about this passage?



One of the best and easiest ways to share the gospel with others is to simply tell the story of your spiritual journey. The Bible word for this holy habit is "witness." What's a witness? It's someone who has experienced something and who gives testimony about that experience to others (1 John 1:3). A witness has seen something with his own eyes. She's heard something with her own ears. A witness is nothing more than a truth-teller.

5. Read Acts 26:1-31, the Apostle Paul's testimony to King Agrippa about his own encounter with Jesus.

Talk through the steps in Paul's appeal.

What grabs you about Paul's witness?

Simply

Logically

Chronologically

For the Next Meeting

Jot down some notes and recollections about your own life prior to placing your total faith in Christ.

- Describe yourself before you met Christ in a personal way or before you began to grow in Christ.
- Describe some of your failed attempts before you had a relationship with Christ.
- Give some steps you took to place your faith in Christ.
- How do you describe your life before you met Christ and as you have grown in Christ?
- What are the biggest changes that have happened in your life along the way as you've grown in Christ?

Evangelizing

Some components to consider in evangelism

- ❖ Includes a verbal proclamation
- ❖ Includes the gospel (what the Message has done for me)
 - With truths about Jesus' death and resurrection for sin
- ❖ Includes an offer to free salvation

**Make it unique - Make it plain - Make it without condemnation - Make it uncluttered
Make it general of your life's experiences - Make it personable - Make it biblical and not preachy**