

EXILES

MAIN POINT:

Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.

EXPLORATION:

1. Read 1 Peter 3:13-17. Are you motivated to share the gospel with people? Why or why not? How is this an issue with 1 Peter 3:15a?
2. Read 1 Peter 3:15b. What do we need to know in order to tell someone the good news of the Gospel? According to this verse what role do apologetics play in our gospel sharing?
(Context Clues: The Greek word for "defense" is transliterated apologia where we get our word apologetic. Notice that ultimately sharing what Christ accomplished is most important.)
3. How should we talk about the gospel with people? The answer is found in 1 Peter 3:15c-16a. According to those verses, what should we consider in our demeanor and attitude?
4. Read 1 Peter 3:16-17. What does this verse say about how we partner our actions with our message?

APPLICATION:

5. In the story of Jesus encounter with Nicodemus in John 3, Nicodemus asks questions of Jesus because of Christ's actions. Are there any Nicodemuses in your life that are asking questions about your faith because your actions are "set apart"? If not, could it be because (1) you look and act like a non-believer or (2) You're not around non-believers? If one of those is the case, how can it be corrected?
6. Consider these 3 ideas in gospel sharing:
 - A. God is doing the work.
 - B. Our job is faithfulness, not success.
 - C. Jesus calls for a total change, so we should too.Are any of these difficult for you to consider when sharing? If so, why?
7. Pray that those in your family, small group, and you as an individual will have the boldness to share, lifestyle that causes people to ask, and are prepared to give a defense for the hope that is in you.