

Summary Notes

1 Peter 3:8-22

- After Peter addressing slaves and masters, wives and husbands he now address everyone (v.8) – no-one should be excluded from this behaviour
- He tells us that we need to ‘live in harmony’, ‘be sympathetic’, ‘love as brothers’, ‘be compassionate’, ‘be humble’, ‘do not repay evil with evil’, ‘pay each other with blessing’. We should be following the ultimate example of Christ (see the comparison with 2:23)
- V.10-14 deal with the understanding of fearing God and the consequences which that entails. Peter quotes from Psalm 34 and from Isaiah 8, both of which highlight the importance of fearing God. Fearing God and not the world, is at least in part to be a motivation for living these good, distinct lives. If we don’t fear God over the world, when we do start to get a hard time for being a Christian, we will give up, duck our heads down and just blend in, rather than standing out! In v14, Peter quotes from Isaiah 8, the context being Israel tempted to fear Assyria attacking. Here, Peter is happy to do a straight swap, ‘setting apart Christ as Lord’, is the same as fearing the LORD almighty (Isaiah 8v13)! All around us people crave the approval of the world. Christians are to live for Jesus, craving His approval, valuing his opinion of us more than the worlds, fearing him and not what people might think, or say, or do. That might be easy when it’s just the odd snigger now and then, but much harder when it does get physical. But how would we ever stand in the face of more severe persecution, if we’re not willing to be insulted for the sake of following Jesus!?
- 3v13 poses what you’d think should be an easy question to answer. If we are living these kinds of good lives, ‘Who is going to harm you?’ The surprise answer is, as we’ve already seen from 2v19-21, is that the good life does lead to suffering. This suffering is at the hands of the watching non-Christian world.
- V.15 is a little treasure where almost every word holds importance. Take time to go over this verse, memorise it (see the powerpoint) and see how each of the words we underlined should impact us.
- V.18-22 arrgh! The ultimate example of suffering for doing good is Jesus (v.18)
- There is a pattern of down – up in the next few verses:
 - Jesus died (v.18) – Jesus raised (v.18)
 - Flood judgement (v.20) – Flood salvation (v.20)
 - Baptism old self (v.21) – Baptism new life (v.21)If you don’t really understand this section don’t worry, it’s a bit confusing and I don’t really fully get it! Keep on searching for yourself if you want to explore it further

How does Peter help us to stand firm in our faith from this letter?

How does this passage challenge our view of suffering for doing good? Treating our friends? Fearing God?

*Instructions for the Powerpoint [online as .pdf file] – Play the powerpoint, repeating the slide out loud a few times before moving onto the next slide, repeat this until you can manage to do it without any words on the screen.