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# **Living as a Witness for Christ**

# I Peter 3:13-16

- 13 Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? 14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, 15 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; yet do it with gentleness and respect, 16 having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

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## Christian Suffering

- “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
- “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” Matthew 5:10-12

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# Response

- “...do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”  
Matthew 10:26

# Response

- “Do not call conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread. But the LORD of Hosts, him you shall honor as holy. Let me him be your fear, and let him be your dread.” Isaiah 8:12-13

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# Response

- “By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible .” Hebrews 11:27

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# Witness in Suffering

- “Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” 2 Corinthians 5:20

# Elements of Witness: Defense

Greek: ‘Defense’ is ‘Apologia’. ‘Apologia’—Apologetics  
= ‘verbal defense’

“Brothers and fathers, hear the defense that I now make to you...” Acts 22:1

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# Elements of Witness: Hope

- “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.” 1 Peter 1:3-4

# Elements of Witness: Hope

- “flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God”. I  
Corinthians 15:50

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# Elements of Witness: Reason

- “...raised him [Jesus] from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.” 1 Peter 1:21

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# Elements of Witness: Make a defense

- “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.” 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

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# Manners of Witness

- Christ-likeness
- Gentleness
- Respect

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## Purpose of Manner

- A good conscience will allow us to be above reproach and prove wrong those who harm us for doing good.

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