



Living Hope

Faith does not keep life from being hard. In fact, sometimes faith makes life harder. Christians need a conviction that the present will surrender to a glorious future. Not “hope so”, but living hope, the kind that Jesus’ resurrection brings. Welcome to 1 Peter!

Week 3: ...In the Calling of God

1. Rick began by asking us to consider this question, “*Is there a Christian way to shut people up?*” What was he getting at with this question and how does it fit into the theme of 1 Peter?
2. **READ 1 PETER 2:11-12, 15.** What resonates with you the most from this passage? Follow up: *When the surrounding culture is hostile, two common responses are to isolate or to accommodate.* Why does Peter reject both of these and what does he call us to instead?
3. **Goodness validates oddness.** *We tend to want our arguments to silence the actions of godless people; Peter counsels letting our actions silence the arguments of godless people.* Why is our first tendency usually towards words and not actions? Share some examples of how you’ve seen people “won over” with goodness more so than by words.
4. **READ 1 PETER 2:13-3:7.** What challenges you the most from this uncomfortable passage? In what ways would this passage have been a comfort to his audience? Follow up: Why is submission often a difficult topic for many of us? How does an understanding of what Peter means by “submit” encourage and challenge you?
5. What do you find to be most significant or challenging about the 3 examples Peter uses of the “voiceless” in his times (*citizens under a godless government, slaves under pagan masters, and wives under unbelieving men*)? What is one thing we can learn and apply from these examples? Follow up: In what sense is submission an expression of holiness?
6. **We are called to respond to mistreatment in the odd way of the cross.** *No one has ever submitted more than Jesus.* **Read 1 Peter 2:21-25.** What strikes you the most about how Jesus modeled this for us? How does being reminded of that encourage/challenge you?
7. **1 PETER 3:8-12. Always try to bless your address...even if it’s a mess.** Why is that important to remember? Spend a moment reflecting on these 2 questions: *Have you ever regretted a time when you gave someone a piece of your mind? Have you ever regretted a time you gave someone a blessing?* What did you learn in those times? Follow up: As you consider this message, where do you see the most opportunity for growth in your own life?

