- B. Only the hope given us through the resurrection of Jesus can overcome the fears that the passions of our flesh want to convince us are going to get us (3:15-16).
 - i. Behavior reveals where our hope really lies.
 - ii. The fears faced
- C. Sanctify the Lord Christ (Isaiah 8:13)
 - a) The Christian hope is the renewal of all things, about life coming out of death in Jesus, about the culmination of a kingdom which has already begun.
 - b) Even this must be spoken gently, not triumphantly.
- D. Suffering is better than doing evil... slandering others, dishonoring them with our words or actions. (3:17)

LIVE THE STORY

The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

Love the Gospel

- Discuss the five adjectives which Peter says are to describe the community of God's people. How are we doing? How can we grow?
- Peter says we are called to the practices he describes. Who called us? How might answer that explain why we are able to do it?

Live the Gospel

- ➤ How does Peter describe our calling in such a way that we know it is not enough simply to say nothing when reviled? What must we do?
- What are some of the ways one might talk themselves out of the Gospel rather than doing what it says?
- Do you think the story of David acting insane before the king a fit metaphor for how we are called to live before the world? Explain.

Advance the Gospel

- ➤ Why is it essential to live motivated by hope rather than fear? How will this impact our ability to be a snapshot of God's kingdom?
- ➤ What does Peter mean by being ready to give a reason for the hope that we have? How does this help to advance the Gospel?

Homeless: Living Out of Hope and Not Fear

Jerry Cisar — September 12, 2021

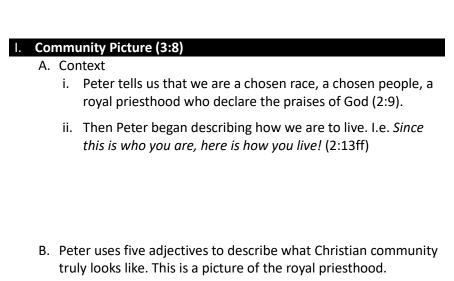
Text: 1 Peter 3:8-17

i. Harmonious

ii. Sympathetic

iii. Affectionate

Introduction



- iv. Compassionate
- v. Humble

Karen Jobes: "Given the importance of the family unit as the basis of Greco-Roman society, the application of kinship terms to the relationship between Christian believers may be viewed as inappropriate or even threatening to the social order by those outside the church."

The church is called to offer an alternative to the unjust structures of the world. To do so, we have to embody these qualities of Jesus Christ.

- C. You cannot be this picture by yourself.
 - i. Peter did not say that you are a chosen person and royal priest; he said we are a people and a priesthood.
 - > Romans 12:1-2
 - ii. This is a picture of what it looks like when living stones are fitted into a spiritual house, the dwelling of place of God.

II. Community Practices (3:9-14a)

- A. Peter gives us **practices**.
 - i. Do not to repay evil with evil, or insult with insult.
 - ii. We are to actually return blessing!
 - iii. To this we are called.
 - a) 1:15; 2:9, 21; 3:9; 5:10
 - b) We have a *role* in the world.

K. Rowe describes this *role* as bearing "witness to the inbreaking reign of God... in all we do and are" and becoming "a picture of... God's reign."

- c) To be a part of the *church* is to embrace this *calling*.
- B. Peter holds out a **promise**.
 - i. We have been given new birth into a living hope, an unassailable inheritance kept in heaven for us. (1:3-4)
 - ii. We must live out this calling, the very calling by which we were given new birth!

We are God's holy ones, saints, and now we must live into who we are!

- C. Peter then draws on a sizeable quotation from Psalm 34.
 - i. This whole letter is deeply infused with Psalm 34.

- ii. Whoever loves life and desires many days...
- iii. How we live, whether doing good or evil, sets us before the Lord in one light or the other (3:12).

III. Community Power (3:14b-17)

- A. Do not fear what they fear or be shaken.
 - i. Compare with Isaiah 8:12-13.
 - ii. The world fears anything that threatens their security.