

"Gentleness and Respect"

1. Read 1 Peter 3:15–16. What are the goals of these instructions? List three or four attitudes or behaviors prescribed in these verses for accomplishing those goals.

A coworker expresses his opinion that the Christian faith is simply old-fashioned superstition. Give an example of an *ungentle* and *disrespectful* response you could make. Give an example of responding with gentleness and respect.

2. A fellow believer states, "*How can I respect someone who opposes the gospel and slanders my Lord? It would be hypocritical for me to dignify such blasphemy with a respectful reply.*" Do you think she has a good point? How would you respond to her comment?

3. Now read the preceding verses — 1 Peter 3:8–14.

What behaviors are prohibited?

What behaviors are prescribed?

What encouragements and promises are given?

Read Romans 12:17–21. What thoughts from 1 Peter 3:8–14 are also found in this passage? Do you think any goals stated in these two passages are behind Peter's instructions to respond to challengers "with gentleness and respect"?

Recurring Questions

- » How have you seen God working in your life or the lives of those around you this week?
- » What prayer requests would you like to share with the group, including prayer for any spiritual struggles you may be experiencing?