

## Living with Courage in the face of Enemies – I Peter 3:13-17

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1. Do not FEAR your enemies (3:13-15a).

2. Always be prepared to make a DEFENSE to your enemies (3:15b).

3. Let your good conscience and your good behavior SHAME your enemies (3:16-17).

### Questions for Discussion & Application

1. What was confusing, convicting, or encouraging from this study of scripture?
2. Have you ever faced a situation where you felt tempted to fear someone who was speaking maliciously to you or about you? Why is it important that we not fear such people?
3. What makes it possible for us to not fear such people who are maligning us?
4. What will help us to be prepared to defend our hope in Christ with gentleness and respect? When has God given you an opportunity to do this?
5. Christians are sometimes reviled for our “good behavior” (verse 16). What are some examples of this happening in our own context?
6. In what sense will our enemies who slander and revile us be put to shame by our good conduct?

7. Verse 17 makes clear that if we suffer for doing good, it is not outside of God's control and will. How does it encourage you to know this?

8. How does this passage challenge you personally? How will you respond in obedience to what you have heard?