

How to live in a place that isn't home

"Witnessing in Exile" by Pastor Dan Stockum



⁸ Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.



⁹ Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.



¹⁰ For "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit;



11 let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it.



¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."



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.



¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.



18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.





The unique conditions exile can create which help, not hurt, us in sharing our faith:

reviling, suffering, and slander





The required response from us:

blessing rather than cursing, and submitting without conforming





1 Peter 3:9 (ESV)

Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called





1 Peter 3:11, 14 (ESV)

turn away from evil and do good

even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled





1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

Always be prepared to give...the reason for the hope that you have.





What people ask:

what is your hope?







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