

Thursday

Read 1 Peter 2:22–23, Proverbs 15:1, and Ephesians 4:28–29. Why is it so difficult not to retaliate with words?

Recall a time when you softened your words — and a time you didn't. What impact did your response have on the situation?

What do you learn in these verses that will help you soften your replies in the future?

Thank God today for Jesus' example of not responding with harsh words to unfair treatment. Ask God to help you control your tongue today — and bless instead of curse.

Friday

Read 1 Peter 2:23 again, and Psalm 98:9. How does seeing God as the ultimate judge help you when life's unfair?

All week you've studied reasons for living hope when life's unfair. What has helped you the most this week?

Thank God that even though life is unfair, you can still have hope. Ask Him today to remind you to leave the judging to Him.

Saturday

Finish any devotions you may have missed and learn the memory verse. Leave prayer for the services this weekend — and for the church to grow as it changes lives! Thanks!



TWIN LAKES
CHURCH
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LIVING HOPE

PART 4

...When Life is Unfair

JULY 7 & 8, 2012 • RENÉ SCHLAEPFER

Review of First Peter:

This book of the Bible is a letter written to first-century Christians who left their homes around Jerusalem because of persecution and moved into the Greco-Roman world — only to find more persecution!

Their reality: _____

First Peter so far...

Peter assures these discouraged first-century believers:

- You're chosen (1 Peter 1:1–2; 2:9–10)
- You have a destiny (1 Peter 1:3–25)
- You have resources (1 Peter 2:1–3)
- You have a purpose (1 Peter 2:4–8)

Negative responses to persecution:

- _____ (WATER DOWN MY CONVICTIONS)
- _____ (ABANDON MY CONVICTIONS)
- _____ (STAY QUIET ABOUT MY CONVICTIONS)
- _____ (ATTACK THOSE WITHOUT MY CONVICTIONS)

**The greatest test of my faith will be
how I respond to _____**

In today's verses, Peter says, even when life's unfair...

1. Choose positive, not negative _____

Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. *1 Peter 2:11 NIV*

2. Choose positive, not negative _____

Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. *1 Peter 2:12 NIV*

For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. *1 Peter 2:15 NIV*

3. Choose positive, not negative _____

For the Lord's sake, respect all human authority... *1 Peter 2:13 NLT*

Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king. *1 Peter 2:17 NIV*

...accept the authority of your masters with all respect. *1 Peter 2:18 NLT*

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone... But do this with gentleness and respect... *1 Peter 3:15 NIV*

Key attitude: _____

How is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. *1 Peter 2:20 NIV*

4. Choose positive, not negative _____

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps... *1 Peter 2:21 NIV*

When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. *1 Peter 2:22 NIV*

5. Choose positive, not negative _____

... he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. *1 Peter 2:22-23 NIV*

Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will bless you for it. *1 Peter 3:9 NLT*

Bottom line:

As an ambassador of the Prince of Peace,
be a person of _____ .

Daily Meditations

Monday

Read 1 Peter 2:12,15-16; Hebrews 12:1-2. What have been some of your natural responses to unfair treatment in the past?

What do these verses say will be a great example to those who mistreat you?

What situation are you facing where you find it difficult to "shine" in this way?

Thank God today for the example Jesus set for you. Ask Him to help you respond to unfair treatment as he did.

Tuesday

Read 1 Peter 2:13-17, and Hebrews 13:17. What is your general attitude about people in authority over you? What principles do you see in these verses about authority?

How can you apply these principles?

What can you do to assure that – when you're in authority – you're not treating people unfairly?

Thank God today for authorities in your life. Pray for authorities. Commit to Him any situation you're in where you find it difficult to respect authority.

Wednesday

Read 1 Peter 2:18-21 and 1 Peter 4:19. How does Peter contrast just with unjust suffering?

Describe a time in your life when you suffered for doing good. What lessons did you learn?

List three things that can give you hope when you suffer unjustly.

How can you encourage those around you who may be suffering unjustly? What will you do this week to encourage them?

Thank God today that He knows how you feel and how difficult life can be. Ask for strength for specific situations today.



Memory Verse

Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

1 Peter 2:12 NIV