

Own Up! #8

The Responsibility to be Prepared

Word

Scripture Reference

1 Peter 3:13-22

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever crammed or prepared last minute for something that is very important? How did it go? Share your experience with the group.
2. When a situation arises, when faced with the storms of life and the challenges of the world, many Christians fail in their Christian walk because they are not prepared to take the onslaught. What situations must you be prepared for as a follower of Christ? Read 1 Peter 3:13-22. The passage gives three situations for which Christians need to be prepared. First is that believers need to be prepared to suffer (v. 13-14). What does Peter mean when he asked, “And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good?” (v. 13). In what way is suffering for doing something right a blessing? Why is it considered a high privilege to suffer for Christ? Share with the group about an experience when your suffering turned into blessing.
3. Verse 17 states, “For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.” Oftentimes, Christians are afraid to do the right thing because they fear the “consequences.” Share and discuss examples of the wrong things that Christians choose to do because they are afraid that if they do what is right, the results would be too bothersome. As a believer, how can you avoid falling into this trap?
4. Secondly, you need to be prepared to defend your faith (v. 15). Ask yourself these questions: (1) Am I able to explain the important things about my faith? (2) How did I come to my decision to become a Christian? (3) Why did I choose Christianity over other religions? How would you prepare yourself to defend your faith in a hostile environment where your faith could be shaken?
5. A very important thing to remember when you defend your faith verbally is that your life should match what you say. How do you think can your actions be the greatest defense of your faith? Is there anything in your life right now—places you should not be going, things you should not be doing, shows you should not be watching—that may compromise your faith? Share and discuss.
6. Thirdly, as a follower of Jesus Christ, you need to be prepared to be identified with Christ (v. 18-22). Noah endured suffering because he was prepared to suffer and defend what was right. He preached to the people although they ridiculed him. What do the floodwaters from which Noah and his family were rescued now symbolize, according to Peter (v. 21)? What is the meaning of baptism? Could it save you from your sin? Why is it important to be baptized if you have believed in Jesus as your Savior? If you are a believer but have not been baptized yet, what’s keeping you from publicly identifying with Christ?

Walk

Preparation doesn’t assure victory; it assures confidence. When you are prepared, you don’t have to be afraid. You can sleep in the midst of trouble. When you are prepared to suffer for Christ, prepared to defend your faith, and prepared to identify with Him, then you will be more at peace. Are you willing to count it a blessing to suffer for Jesus? In your walk with Christ, what measure can you take to become more geared up to answer questions about your hope and faith in Him? Are you identified with the One who controls the world instead of with the world? Whose team does your allegiance belong?

Worship & Prayer

Father, thank You for reminding me through Your Word that believing in You means I have to be prepared to suffer for You, that I have to be prepared to defend my faith in You, and that I need to prepare to be identified with You. You never promised an easy life when I chose to follow Your Son, but You promised me Your Holy Spirit to strengthen and guide me as I try to live for You in a world that has rejected You. And so I claim that promise, Father. As I do my best to study Your Word, grant me the wisdom to understand and open my heart to receive Your instructions. Grant me opportunities to own my faith, and allow me the privilege of sharing it with others. I ask these in Christ’s name. Amen.