

becoming



who

you are

## The Subversive Good

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1 Peter 3:13-22

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### 1 Peter 3:13-22

Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.” But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. For it is better, if it is God’s will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits—to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt

from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

## **Our Perception of Good & Suffering**

Verse 13: "...eager to do good."

Verse 14: "...suffer for what is right..."

Verse 16: "...your good behavior in Christ..."

### **1 Peter 3:16**

...keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

"Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will go and sell all that he has. It is the pearl of great price to buy which the merchant will sell all his goods. It is the kingly rule of Christ, for whose sake a man will pluck out the eye which causes him to stumble; it is the call for Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows him."

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Cost of Discipleship*

## **Our Temptation With Doing Good**

### **1 Peter 3:18**

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

### **1 Peter 3:17**

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

"The qualification, if this should be God's will, refers to suffering for doing what is right and not simply suffering. The point is that God wills doing what is right rather than doing what is wrong...even if and when the result is suffering."

- J.H. Elliott

“We all experience conflicting emotions towards others. Others around us experience conflicting emotions toward us. When named and framed, those feelings help us brave a healthier way forward for the benefit of everyone.”

- Dr. Alison Cook

Name it

Frame it

Brave it

### **1 Peter 3:14-15a**

But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.” But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord...

### **Our Opportunity & Hope Through the Good**

#### **1 Peter 3:15-16**

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.