

Series: Resident Aliens: A Study of 1 Peter
Lesson: 1 Peter 3:8-17: The Consequences of Holiness
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1. The maintenance of harmony in the church requires sympathy, brotherly love, compassion, and humility.

2. The “natural” tendency is to respond to insult with insult.

Examples:

3. The “spiritual” tendency is to respond to insult with blessing.

Examples:

4. Those who bless their enemies will be blessed.

a. In this life that blessing may be loving life and seeing good days.

b. It also means God hears our prayers.

5. Christians should always be ready to give and answer to those who ask about their hope.

My answer is:

6. It is better to suffer in this age for doing good than in the age to come for doing evil.

Travel Tip #9:

Most discussions about 1 Peter 3:18-22 center on Christ’s preaching to the spirits now in prison who disobeyed in the days of Noah. Although interesting, this draws attention away from Peter’s main point. Peter wants his readers, who live (like Noah) in the midst of an evil world, to know that God has set them apart for salvation through baptism and that they will be vindicated as Christ was at his resurrection. As proof of this, Peter relies on a contemporary Jewish interpretation of Genesis 6. There the story is told of “sons of God” intermarrying with the “daughters of men.” Many first century Jews and Christians believed this was an account of fallen angels. Part of the tradition included the binding of these evil spirits by God, keeping them imprisoned for Judgment Day. Peter relies on this tradition to emphasize the overwhelming victory of Christ. Although killed in the flesh, he was made alive in the Spirit, and in his ascension he passed through all the heavenly realms proclaiming to spiritual beings the victory of God made through the cross. As a result, Jesus is at God’s right hand and all of those spiritual beings are now subject to him (3:22).