



1 Peter 3:9-12 | When the World Attacks: Fight? Flight? or Right?

1. Fight \_\_\_\_\_ (9)

2. Stay \_\_\_\_\_ (10-11)

3. Trust \_\_\_\_\_ (12)

## Scripture Memory

*“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,”*

–1 Peter 3:15

## Application Questions

*Community Groups meet throughout the week and play a crucial role in our response to the preaching of the word. These groups gather to discuss the following questions as we seek to apply the sermon in community with one another. Please visit [compassntx.org](http://compassntx.org) to join a small group near you.*

1. Read **1 Peter 3:9**. When someone hurts you (or one of your loved ones), what are the specific sinful or evil responses you are most tempted toward (words, attitudes, actions)? Where do you see that instinctive “I want to get even” impulse show up in your life?

2. Read **1 Peter 3:9** and **Matthew 5:44**. If Peter’s call to “bless” likely includes praying for those who wrong us, what are some concrete, Christlike prayers you could pray for someone who has slandered you, lied about you, or otherwise hurt you with their words or actions?

3. Read **Matthew 18:21-35**. Why is forgiveness so central to what Peter is calling us to in this passage, and how does this parable expose the danger of withholding forgiveness from others? If someone does not seek your forgiveness or refuses to repent, in what sense are you still called to forgive them, and what might that forgiveness practically look like (in your heart, your prayers, and your posture toward them)?

4. Read **1 Peter 3:10-11**. At first glance, does Peter’s “Whoever desires... let him...” language sound like he is putting a condition on eternal life? How does a passage like **Galatians 5:22-23** help us understand that our response to attacks is not what earns our standing with Christ, but is instead fruit that shows the reality of our new life in Him?

5. Read **1 Peter 3:12**. What specific truths about God in this verse are most comforting when you are being misrepresented, slandered, or mistreated? How might remembering these truths in the moment actually change the way you think, feel, and respond when you’re under attack?

6. In light of this whole passage, when is it appropriate for Christians to seek earthly justice (through church discipline, legal means, wise authorities, etc.), and when does that desire cross the line into sinful revenge? How can we practically “leave it to the wrath of God” while still honoring legitimate avenues of justice and continuing to overcome evil with good?

## Recommended Reading

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- *When the Darkness Will Not Lift* - John Piper
- *The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness* - Tim Keller
- *The Peacemaker* - Ken Sande
- *Trusting God* - Jerry Bridges