

## Pursuing Peace

1 Peter 3:8-22 [Page 1890]

### Taking it Home:

1. What is the model for evangelism Peter gives in 15-16? How closely do you follow this?
  
  
  
  
2. Engaging our culture with truth and love is a big goal. It starts, however, with engaging just one or two people. Who is God calling you to reach out to with the love of Jesus?

### Prayer Concerns:

#### A. Pursuing peace. [8-12]

1. \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_  
one another sympathetically and compassionately.
  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_

#### B. Living fearlessly. [13-17]

1. \_\_\_\_\_

*“Those who are still afraid of men have no fear of God,  
and those who fear God have ceased to be afraid of men.”*

[Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*]

2. Share and live the \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

*“Fear of man will keep us quiet; God’s love will open our mouths.”*

[Juan R. Sanchez]

#### C. Exalting Jesus. [18-22]

## Personal Study/Growth Group Discussion Questions

### Getting Started:

Review our three church-wide priorities for 2023:

1. Giving Jesus our first love.
2. Glorifying God in our worship.
3. Engaging our culture with truth and love.

How are you doing in your pursuit of these priorities?

### Digging Deeper:

#### Read 1 Peter 3:8-22

1. What emotions, thoughts, or questions come to mind as you consider the priority of engaging our culture with the truth and love of Jesus?
2. 1<sup>st</sup> Peter was written shortly after Emperor Nero set fire to Rome. To deflect responsibility, Nero blamed Christians which resulted in widespread oppression and persecution of the church. 1<sup>st</sup> Peter was written to strengthen suffering Christians. Why, then, was it so important for the church to preserve the unity of the Body of Christ [v. 8]? Why is maintaining church unity important for us today?
3. Reread verse 9. Instead of repaying evil with evil or insult with insult, we're to repay evil with blessing. In what tangible ways are we to bless others when they mean to hurt or insult us?
4. What does it mean for us to seek and pursue peace with all people? [See Romans 12:18; Matthew 5:9; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; Hebrews 12:14]
5. One of the quotes Dan shared in the sermon was, "*Fear of man will keep us quiet; God's love will open our mouths.*" What fears motivate people today? How does following Jesus free us from fear?
6. Verse 15a instructs us to "*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.*" What will it take for us to fulfill this command?