The Church: Being Prepared for the Mission

1 Peter 3:15-16

November 1, 2020

I. Set Apart Jesus Christ as Lord

What statement does 1 Peter 3:15 start with? What does this mean?

Define the term "Lord" in your own words.

What does the word "revere" mean? What other words are used in various translations of the first phrase of 1 Peter 3:15?

The heart was considered in Jewish thought to be the centre of our lives. Describe the difference between Jesus being "in" a life and "at the centre" of a life.

Why do so many Christians struggle with Jesus being the Lord of their lives?

Describe a situation where you have struggled with the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

How must Jesus "as Saviour" be connected to Jesus "as Lord"?

II. Prepared to Proclaim Jesus

What are the key words of the next sentence in 1 Peter 3:15?

What is meant by the word "hope" in 1 Peter 3:15?

Why is the biblical word *hope* such a key word as we consider the world today?

List some of the things that would seem to make us hope*less*.

How is the hope we have in God through Jesus the answer for the things that could bring us to hopelessness? Read Micah 7:7

If people are asking us why we can have hope, what does this suggest about the hope that is in us?

Many Christians want to live as far away from non-Christians as possible. What is the problem with this as you read 1 Peter 3:15?

What are we to prepare for? What does the word "prepare" mean to you?

What are we most afraid of when we think about sharing our faith?

Why is it important to be reminded that this is not just intended to be a formal presentation of faith but one that happens informally?

It was suggested that our preparation can be seen in three parts:
1. What does it mean to live in anticipation?
2. What does it mean to know the story of Jesus?
3. What does it mean to know ***our*** story in Jesus?

III. With Gentleness and Respect

How does 1 Peter 3:15 describe our sharing and giving of an answer in the last part of the verse?

Compare 1 Peter 3:15 to Colossian 4:6 and Ephesians 4:15. How do each of these verses describe sharing and proclaiming the truth of Jesus?

Why is *gentleness* and *respect* so absent today in conversation?

How would you define "gentleness" in talking to others?

The word "respect" is often used to refer to our relationship with God. How is it used in 1 Peter 3:15?

What is the impact of this sharing that is described in 1 Peter 3:16?

What might the practical application of this passage be in your life?