



## Choices: Civility

1 PETER 3:8-17 | JULY 9 & 10, 2016

### LEAN IN (5 minutes)

Share about a recent time you observed people talking past one another.

Sample answers:

- PTA meeting
- Work
- Home

### LOOK DOWN (20 minutes)

Read 1 Peter 3:8-17

What do we learn about responding to disagreement, mistreatment, or evil from these passages?

Sample answers:

- It is easy to respond in kind (v. 9a)
- It is blessed to rather repay evil with good (v. 9b)
- Our responses should be characterized by gentleness and respect (v. 15b)
- We should heed our conscience (v. 16)

What do we learn about God from these passages?

Sample answers:

- He sees and hears the righteous (v. 10c)
- He turns suffering on its head (vv. 14-17)
- Christ is the archetype for how to respond to evil (1 Pet. 2:21-25)

What do we learn about ourselves from these passages?

Sample answers:

- We are called to repay evil with blessing (v. 9)
- We have a role to play in “loving life” and “seeing good days” (v. 10a)
- We can influence others by our response to disagreement, mistreatment, and evil (v. 16)

### LOOK OUT (5 minutes)

How do people typically react to disagreement, mistreatment, or evil? Why?

- Quickly
- Emotionally
- In kind (“An eye for an eye...”) (Matt. 5:38-42)

### LOOK IN (10 minutes)

What needs to change in order for my response to mirror that of Christ’s?

Sample answers:

- My definition of “better” (v. 17)
- My belief/awareness of God’s attentiveness to my situation (v. 10c)
- My understanding that I can miss out on God’s ideal by responding “in the flesh” (v. 9; Gal. 5:16)

### LIVE IT OUT (10 minutes)

What areas of your life would look different if you adopted this attitude toward responding to disagreement, mistreatment, and evil?

Sample answers:

- Feeling – I wouldn’t feel like I’m the only one who looks out for my well-being (v. 10c)
- Being – I would speak less and listen more
- Trusting – I would trust that my obedience to God’s command brings about the “best” result (v. 17)