

5. Peter: Apologetics & Suffering

Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you.... 1. Peter 3.15

You know Him, because He abides with you, and He will be in you. John 14.17

Always be ready to make your _____ to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you.... This text from 1 Peter is the scripture used today by Christian apologists to defend their defense of the faith.

Peter's encouraging us to have a good defense for our hope in Christ comes in the context of _____ on behalf of Christ. His point is, instead of reacting to our being treated badly, we are to respond *with gentleness and reverence* toward those who malign or abuse us.

In the ancient world folks knew the god you worshipped by the _____ you lived. The same is true today, which is why Christianity has such a poor reputation among the masses of unchurched people; we have failed to make known the God we profess to worship. But for those who hear the invitation of God's Word and Spirit to live the Christ-like life, we are also to be prepared to make a defense for the hope that is within us, and here again, is another clincher, *...but with gentleness and reverence.*

Whatever I _____ is what my life will revolve around. Jesus said it this way, *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.* Matthew 6.21

Our love for one another is our greatest _____ to the world of our love for God.

Our greatest defense of the faith has been and always will be _____ love for one another, and the greatest apologist of the faith has been and always will be the one who loves even as Jesus loves.

What is _____ defense of the hope that is in me? Yours?