

THE MESSAGE OF 1 PETER

How would you answer the question:

How should followers of Jesus act when persecuted?



When persecuted, followers of Jesus must.....

- be a blessing (1 Peter 3:9).
- keep clean (1 Peter 3:10–11).
- remember God is watching (1 Peter 3:12–14).



Love for Enemies – Luke 6:27-31

²⁷ "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. 31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.



When persecuted, followers of Jesus must.....

keep clean (1 Peter 3:10–11).

 "Lean out from" – avoid the trouble you might get in, literally "GET OUT OF THE WAY"



¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." [e]

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:18-21



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- First-century Greco-Roman society marginalized Christians simply because they were known to be different.
- The Roman writer Suetonius considered Christianity to be a "mischievous superstition"
- Tacitus described Christianity as "a dangerous superstition and Christians as a race detested for their evil practices"
- It would be a natural human desire to feel anger under such circumstances and to retaliate.



What is the encouragement? God is watching.....

- God sees the problems and He hears our cries. (Ex 3:7 I have heard the cries of my people)
- He knows how to deal with those who persecute us for His sake.
- Rather than complain, we should rejoice that we are suffering for His sake

(Matt. 5:11–12; Acts 5:41).



How is it even possible to have this attitude?

1 Peter 3:15.

"Sanctify Christ as Lord" = Worship Christ as Lord of your life



CONCLUSION:

Keep in mind the main lesson of this passage: Christ suffered wrongly, but God honoured Him and gave Him glory (v. 22).

Where do you need to entrust yourself to God today?

