

# FIRST PETER

## Part 96

“Our Strategy of Sharing our Hope”

*Presented by*

Pastor Ron Schafer

October 16, 2005

As believers, we are people of “hope.” Regardless of circumstances or uncertainties, we have hope and we strive to live like we believe it. Now when we demonstrate a lifestyle of hope, others will ask us questions about the way we live. They will be curious and want their curiosity satisfied. They may or may not agree with the answers we give them, however.

In light of the various responses we might get from others as we share about our hope, we must have a solid strategy. We must not harm our testimony by answering in a damaging way. The response we receive must not determine how we respond back.

# THEIR REPOSE

## I Peter 3:16

- Some people will be very **receptive** to your answer, but most will not.
- A righteous life always **irritates** those who are walking in **sin** (either saved or unsaved).
- They manifest their feelings by speaking **against** those who walk righteously.
- They do this with malicious speech designed to **destroy** one's reputation.
- They also falsely accuse you of **sinful** acts to vilify your testimony.
- They are energized by the **enemy** to discredit you and your Savior.

# OUR STRATEGY

## I Peter 3:15b & 16

- We must be gentle and non-reactionary to those who are **opposed** to our lifestyle.
- Gentleness is a controlled reaction to others, which combines strength and **tenderness**. It allows you to choose your response to people rather than simply **reacting** to them.
- We must also **act** in a reverent way.
- In other words, we have a great fear of **displeasing** the Living God.
- It means we are more intent on pleasing God than being **popular** with other people.
- We must also continually have a clean conscience or **moral** sensitivity.
- At the end of the day our thoughts, motives and **desires** are good in God's sight.

# FINAL THOUGHTS

- As believers, we are not to be **angry** reactionaries to the lifestyles of people in sin.
- Our quiet, confident and **peaceful** lifestyle will represent Jesus Christ in a righteous way.

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. Do others "slander" your lifestyle? Explain.
2. Is your normal reaction to be defensive and agitated toward them?
3. What kind of strategy do you have in place around those who are not living righteously?