

PREPARED – PART 1: UNSETTLING SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2022

One of the most unsettling things for followers of Jesus is whether they feel prepared or unprepared to answer questions about what they believe and why. Just the suggestion of an opportunity to explain to someone what they believe and why can be intimidating to the point of being almost paralyzing. Sometimes overcoming the fear is as simple as being prepared to give an answer for the hope we have.

READ 1 PETER 3:8-22

- Have you ever experienced a situation in which you felt unprepared? If so, describe how you felt unsettled or maybe even thrown off balance?
- Do you feel prepared to answer what you believe and why in a simple, short statement?
- What are some differences between being prepared to answer EVERY question and giving a reason why you have personally chosen to follow Jesus?
- What does it look like for someone to talk about what he or she believes with gentleness and respect?
- Why do gentleness and respect carry the reason for our hope farther than harsh criticism, legalism, and judgmentalism ever will?
- What does it mean to keep a clear conscience?
- Do you agree it's better to suffer for doing good than doing evil? Talk about your answer.
- Do you agree that everyone experiences some level of suffering? Why or why not?
- What does it mean to YOU that Jesus suffered once for sin, the righteous for the unrighteous?
- Why have YOU chosen to follow Jesus?
- Take a few minutes and start to craft a simple, memorable, repeatable statement to give as the reason for the hope that you have.
- What next step will you take to always be prepared to give a reason for the hope you have?

PREPARED > INTIMIDATED