



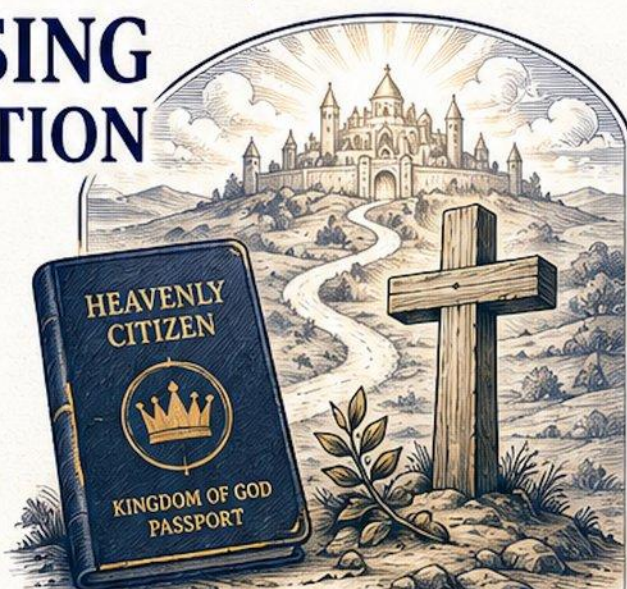
WHEN BLESSING MEETS OPPOSITION

1 PETER 3:8–17

Our citizenship in heaven changes how we live among the nations.

Peter continues answering the question he has been asking throughout the letter: Who have we become because we belong to Christ?

As citizens of God's Kingdom, believers answer hostility with blessing, fear with worship, and questions with the hope of the Gospel. The church becomes a people the world cannot explain.



OUR TRUE CITIZENSHIP

Our passports identify where we were born.
Our new birth identifies whose we are.

1 A NEW FAMILY 3:8–9



- One mind centered on Christ.
- Compassion instead of self-protection.
- Brotherly love born from new birth.
- Bless instead of retaliate.
- Heirs can bless because our inheritance is secure.

"Not rendering evil for evil... but contrariwise blessing." (3:9)

2 A NEW MOUTH 3:10–12



- Speech reveals the heart.
- Refrain the tongue from evil.
- Pursue peace intentionally.
- God sees every conversation.
- Peace flows from changed hearts, not forced behavior.

"Let him seek peace, and ensue it." (3:11)

3 A NEW FEAR 3:13–17



- Righteous living may still suffer.
- Fear loses power when Christ is Lord.
- Sanctify Christ in your heart.
- Better to suffer for doing right than wrong.
- Our citizenship determines our courage.

"Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts." (3:15)

4 A NEW VOICE 3:15–17



- Live so others ask why.
- Be ready to give an answer.
- Give the reason for our hope with meekness and fear.
- A good conscience silences false accusations.
- Christ is our example and our answer.

"Be ready always to give an answer... with meekness and fear." (3:15)



KEY VERSES

1 Peter 3:8

"Be ye all of one mind..."

1 Peter 3:9

"Not rendering evil for evil... but contrariwise blessing."

1 Peter 3:11

"Seek peace, and ensue it."

1 Peter 3:15

"Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts..."

1 Peter 3:17

"It is better... that ye suffer for well doing, than for evildoing."



KEY TRUTHS

- The church is a new family created by the new birth.
- Citizens of Heaven answer hostility with blessing.
- Christian peace begins in the heart.
- Fear loses its power when Christ occupies the throne.
- Our witness begins before we speak.



GREEK WORD INSIGHTS

ὁμόφρων (homophrōn) – "one mind"
United in allegiance to Christ rather than uniformity of personality. (3:8)

εὐλογέω (eulogēō) – "bless"
To speak and act for another's good—even toward those who oppose you. (3:9)

ἀπολογία (apologia) – "answer, defense"
A thoughtful explanation of the hope found in Christ. Our explanation follows a transformed life. (3:15)

ἁγιάζω (hagiazō) – "sanctify"
To set apart as holy. Peter calls believers to enthrone Christ as Lord in the heart. (3:15)



THE WORLD SAYS

- Defend yourself.
- Return insult for insult.
- Fear losing everything.
- Win every argument.
- Protect your position.



PETER SAYS

- Bless those who oppose you.
- Seek peace.
- Fear Christ above all.
- Live so others ask why.
- Answer with hope.

HOW THIS CHANGES OUR LIVES



FAMILY
Love one another deeply.



SPEECH
Use words that bring peace.



ALLEGIANCE
Christ rules the heart.



COURAGE
Do not fear their terror.



WITNESS
Be ready to give an answer.



CITIZENSHIP
Represent Heaven wherever you live.



THE BOTTOM LINE

Because we belong to Christ's Kingdom, we are free to bless instead of retaliate, pursue peace instead of revenge, fear Christ instead of man, and answer the world's questions with the hope of the Gospel.



TEACHER NOTE

Peter's commands are not isolated moral instructions. They describe the character of a people who have been born again into God's family. The church's witness begins with its life together, extends into its conduct before the world, and culminates in a gracious explanation of the hope found in Jesus Christ.



APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Does my church family reflect my heavenly citizenship?
2. What does my speech reveal about my heart?
3. What fear most competes with Christ for the throne of my heart?
4. Would my life cause someone to ask about my hope?
5. Am I ready to explain the Gospel with meekness and reverence?