

# Summary

In this sermon from the 'Exiled' series on First Peter 3, Pastor Josh explores the theme of Christian responses in various relationships and situations. He emphasizes that while we can't control what happens to us, we can control how we respond. The sermon focuses on how Christians should respond in marriage relationships, with fellow believers, and to a hostile world. The pastor highlights that our responses should be characterized by genuine faith rather than hypocrisy, and should ultimately point others toward Christ rather than away from Him.

## Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss Your Word, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us today. Help us examine our responses to others in light of Your truth. May our discussion lead us to reflect Your love more authentically in all our relationships. Guide our conversation and help us apply these truths to our daily lives. In Jesus' name, amen.

## Ice Breaker

What's something small that someone does that really pushes your buttons or irritates you? How do you typically respond when this happens?

## Key Verses

1. 1 Peter 3:8-9
2. 1 Peter 3:18
3. Proverbs 15:1
4. Jeremiah 29:7

## Questions

1. The pastor mentioned the idea of 'don't just say you're about it, be about it.' In what areas of your faith might you be saying one thing but living another?
2. How does understanding Jesus' response to us (suffering for our sins) change how we respond to difficult people in our lives?
3. The sermon highlighted five characteristics Christians should display: unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, tender heart, and humble mind. Which of these do you find most challenging to live out and why?
4. What does it mean to be 'submissive' in a healthy, biblical way in relationships? How is this different from being a doormat?
5. The pastor suggested asking people in our lives, 'How can I love you today?' How might regularly asking this question transform your relationships?
6. In what ways might you be minimizing your potential impact for the gospel because you're not experiencing extreme persecution?
7. How do you typically respond when someone ridicules your faith? What would a gospel-centered response look like?

# Life Application

This week, choose one of the five characteristics mentioned in 1 Peter 3:8 (unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, tender heart, or humble mind) that you struggle with most. Pray about it daily and intentionally practice it in your relationships. Additionally, ask at least three people in your life the question, 'How can I love you today?' and then follow through on what they share. Keep a journal of how these practices affect your relationships and your witness for Christ.

## Key Takeaways

1. You can't control what happens to you, but you can control how you respond to people and circumstances.
2. Our responses in relationships should be characterized by genuine faith rather than hypocrisy - don't just say you're about following Jesus, actually be about following Jesus.
3. Christians are called to respond to evil with blessing rather than retaliation, even when it's difficult.
4. The five characteristics we should display are: unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, tender heart, and humble mind.
5. Our ultimate goal in all responses should be to bring people closer to Jesus rather than pushing them away.

## Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for Your example of responding to hatred with love and to evil with blessing. Forgive us for the times our responses have pushed others away from You rather than drawing them closer. Help us to be genuine in our faith, displaying unity, sympathy, brotherly love, tender hearts, and humble minds. Give us the courage to ask how we can love others better and the strength to follow through. May our responses to every situation reflect Your character and point others to Your saving grace. We pray this in Your precious name, amen.