

Responding to Hurt

By Rick Ezell

“But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do” (1 Peter 1:15 NIV).

Have you ever been hurt? A friend betrays you. A coach cuts you. A company fires you. A girlfriend rejects you. Your wife walks out on you. Those closest to us hurt us the deepest.

What was your response? Did you want to hurt them back? physically attack them? Seek revenge? Slander their character? Key their car? Slash their tires? Throw paint on their house? Send incriminating letters to their boss and friends? Take out a newspaper ad that revealed their sins? The prevailing thought in the world system around us is to get even, to hit back, to make them pay.

The Christians at Rome knew hurt. They were enduring the wrath of Emperor Nero who accused the Christian community of starting a fire in Rome they did not start. They were on the receiving end of some rather painful attacks. I’m suspecting that those early Christians wanted to attack their attackers, persecute their persecutors, slander the slanderers, and hurt the ones hurting them.

Peter informs them that that is not the way a Christian responds. A Christian responds differently. Two times in this verse Peter commands the early Christians: Be holy. The word *holy* means “distinct, separate, not the same, out of the ordinary, unusual.” When the hurts come, and they will, a Christian responds in love, grace, humility, and forgiveness. In this way, we reflect the nature of Jesus. A holy person is not an odd person, but a different person. Just like Jesus.

Blaise Pascal said, “The serene, silent beauty of a holy life is the most powerful influence in the world, next to the might of God.”

Believers in Christ have been commanded to live of holiness even when people hurt us.

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