



God's Will for You and Me **1 Peter 2:15-16**

“For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God” (1 Peter 2:15-16—ESV).

It may be impossible to silence foolish or wicked people from saying what they intend to say against the people of God. But we can respond to such people in ways that may show them (and others) their foolishness or evil in ways that help them. As Christians, we are not commanded to strike back at these people by trying to silence them in ways that would violate the law of God toward others—the law of love. We are commanded to love others as Christ has loved us. This includes remembering how much Christ has loved us, for while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. We can also look at the ways Jesus faced foolish or evil people. Jesus did good to everyone as a servant of God. Jesus always said and did what would help others. Sometimes, that included not saying anything at all. When He was on trial for telling the truth about the Father and His relationship with the Father, He did not open His mouth until He was asked a direct question about His divine nature. Then He told the court exactly who He was. Jesus always spoke with love and concern for others, but not everyone understood His intentions. He told parables, but only those who were truly seeking to understand and apply His words, those who were seeking God, understood them. In love, He told the hypocritical religious leaders exactly what kind of people they had become. He did not treat them as they had treated Him. He prayed for them and loved them, and some of them came to see themselves as God sees them. Showing the love of God in this way, some came to reason rightly. They understood that they had been wrong and they repented. Indeed, some learned that Jesus came as the Son of God and the Lamb of God for them. He led them into the arms of God, into following Him daily, and into living according to the truth of God—which is God's will for you and me.