A Christian’s Best Defense  
1 Peter 3:13-16  

Introduction:  
A. Faithful Christians will be abused “for righteousness sake.” (v. 14; cf. Phil. 1:29).  
   1. We have a mixed blessing in the American system.  
      a. We are protected from physical abuse by law - can be thankful.  
         (1) We are not likely to be jailed, killed or maimed.  
         (2) We are more likely misrepresented, ridiculed, unfairly treated – from without and within.  
      b. We are granted freedom of speech.  
         (1) This allows the enemies of Christians to verbally abuse us.  
         (2) But to restrict their speech would also restrict our right to preach and defend the truth.  
   2. We often find ourselves asking, “What can we do to defend ourselves?”  
B. Faithful Christians have the best possible defenses available to them as outlined by Peter:  

Discussion:  
I. A Good Life (v. 13).  
   A. Will suffer, but no permanent harm. (cf. Matt. 10:28; Mk. 10:29,30)  
   B. Will be protected by the Lord. (vv. 10-12; cf. 1 Cor. 10:13)  
II. A God-Honoring Heart (“... sanctify the Lord God in your hearts.” v. 15).  
   A. Rather than being alarmed and troubled in your heart (v. 14)  
   B. Sanctify (set apart) “Christ as Lord” in your hearts (asv)  
      1. Must love Him from the heart. (Matt. 22:37)  
      2. Must serve Him from the heart. Eph. 6:6,7).  
III. A Ready Answer (“always be ready to give a answer [defense], . . .” v. 15).  
   A. Knowing the answer will sustain us in time of trouble.  
   B. Giving the answer will influence others.  
IV. A Reasonable Hope (“. . . a reason for the hope that is in you. . .” v. 15)  
   A. Our sustaining hope is reasonable because it is based on facts – not a pipe dream.  
      1. Verified historical events. (John 20:30,31; Acts 26:8-15; 1 Cor. 15:1-8).  
      2. Credible evidence of what Jesus commanded and promised. (cf. 1 John 1:1-3)  
   B. Our reasonable hope is based on God’s promises and our obedience. (2 Tim. 4:7,8)  
V. A Meek And Reverent Attitude (“... meekness and fear...” v. 15)  
   A. Such will disarm those who would abuse us more than retaliation. (cf. Rom. 12:20).  
   B. A life of fear (reverence) often will melt hearts when words fail. (cf. 1 Pet. 3:2).  
VI. A Good Conscience. (v. 16).  
   A. One can have a good conscience and be wrong. (Acts 23:1).  
   B. One can not be right without a good conscience.  

Conclusion:  
A. Armed with these traits, one can survive abuse and put his abusers to shame. (v. 16).  
B. The traits can make us, with God’s help, stronger than a mighty army.