

1 Peter 3:8-12

What Does the World Need to See in Us?

8 Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; 9 not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. 10 For "He who would love life and see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit. 11 Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it. 12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil. – **PRAY**

In second century A.D. the Church historian Tertullian recorded that the Roman GOVT became suspicious of churches

A)The Church was growing rapidly and the GOVT wanted to know what the attraction was

B)So they sent spies to go into the churches to check them out This was their report

"These Christians are very strange people. They meet in an empty room to worship. They have no image. They speak of one by the name of Jesus, who is absent, **but whom they seem to be expecting at any moment.**"

And they concluded by saying, "**And my, how they love him and how they love one another.**"

C)What a compelling, attractive way to describe the followers of Jesus

What would the unbelievers say about the Church today?

A)IS there be anything attractive about us? -Is there anything that stands out to them as being different?

B)Besides the fact that we go to church on Sundays and we are moral people?

The past year has been a bad one for the witness for the Church –

A)Believers fighting on social media about politics, race relations, Covid, Masks, meeting

B)You could say the Church as a whole has gotten a big black eye.

1)Those people don't know how to get along!

C)Said it before – in many ways we are doing the Devil's work for him –

1)Jesus is weeping – the Devil is laughing

The Church is not very attractive right now to those who are on the outside of it.

A)Peter gives us insight into how we can change that

B)Finally – Peter is not wrapping up his letter yet

C)But he is wrapping up this section where he has been talking about our conduct amongst unbelievers 1) Started in 2:12 Living honorably in a world that is hostile toward Jesus

We have seen that when living in a world that is against Christ -

A)Our lives can make an impact for Jesus when we conduct ourselves in a right manner.....GOVT

B)IN the workplace – In the home –

1)Unbelievers in the home can be won by the Honorable conduct of spouses, parents, siblings

C)Finally all of you -Now Peter takes us to a fourth area of social interaction. The Church –

1)All of you – talking to believers

D)Now he is talking about how Christian believers are interact with each other.

E)See most unbelievers are not going to come into a church –

1)so what should they see in us that should stand out as being different ?

V.15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you?

Why would they even ask that question?

A)What is it about us that would prompt a non Christian to say – What is your secret?

B)Makes you tick?- There is something about you that is different? What is it ?

C) Peter gives us six descriptions that they should see in us that is different from the world.

1) Break this down today.

#1 Be Like minded- Finally be of one mind – Is that even possible?

A) You know what most of us define like-mindedness as? *You agreeing with me---that's like-minded.*

B) This is what I think and you should agree with that."

1) No, no. That's not unity, that's just uniformity.

C) The Bible never calls us to that. God knows there will be differences of opinions that we have.

If we right now were to open up a discussion on politics, or on styles of clothing,

A) Or on what shows are appropriate to watch on television

B) There would be radical differences of opinions -

1) We would open a can of worms and we would have one huge disagreement. It's the way we are.

C) We don't agree on everything. Been said, "If two people agree on everything, one of them isn't thinking."

D) I have certain views on eschatology, on the end times.

1) On the rapture, on the tribulation, on the millennium- I have views about the Holy Spirit.

E) Some of you may not share those views, that's okay.

1) I always want to be gracious enough to allow you to be wrong. JK – sort of

The early church didn't always agree, did they?

A) There were disagreements and arguments and divisions over things like meat sacrificed to idols,

B) Over keeping the Sabbath, over which days are appropriate to worship,

1) Over which widows should be taken care of by the church finances.

C) There was a litany of things the early church disagreed on and they had to work through it

D) So this is not a call to thinking alike – but this is a call to being Like-minded

E) Having one mind or like-mindedness, I would describe as this: cooperation in the midst of diversity, 1) cooperation in the midst of diversity.

Best example I can think of, your human body, the very example Paul used of the church, "the body of Christ."

A) There's different parts with different operations, there is diversity,

B) But there is cooperation in that diversity.

C) When there is not cooperation we call that a handicap or even paralysis –

1) One part of the body is not working properly

D) God desire for us is there would be cooperation in our Diversity

1) And that's the very thing Jesus prayed for. He said,

"Father, I pray that they may be one even as you and I are one that the world may believe that you have sent me." John 17:20

E) So, here's the deal: there are some core issues, in the church let's call them "essentials."

There are essentials that we must all agree on:

A) The nature of God;

B) The person and work of Jesus Christ that he is God in human flesh

1) that he came to this earth, that he took our place dying on a cross,

C) that he rose again physically from the dead, on the 3rd day - and that he's coming again.

D) Those are core issues that you must believe in to even be a Christian.

1) We MUST BE of **one mind with those issues.**

E) No room for differing opinions – those are the Core essentials of the faith

But there are Secondary issues, and we can be of one mind that those are secondary issues.

A) Differing opinions is ok – Don't major on minor issues

B)When we major on minor issues and get divided over non-essential issues –

1)we look like toddlers to the outside world

C)How many of you have toddlers? Raise your hands, I want to see.

1)Okay, just notice all the people so you can pray for them.

You know, toddlers have their own rules.

A)You know that, right? There's like a whole set of laws just for toddlers.

B)There are "Property Laws for Toddlers":

- If I like it, it's mine.
- If it's in my hand, it's mine.

- If I can take it from you, it's mine.
- If I had it a little while ago, it's mine.

- If I'm doing or building something, all the pieces are mine.

- If it looks just like mine, it's mine.
- If I saw it first, it's mine."

- "If you're playing with something and you put it down, automatically mine.

And, finally, if it's broken, it's yours."

Toddler mentality – I am always right and you are always wrong

A)Hey, that's fine for toddlers, but it's certainly not fine for mature believers in Christ.

B)As followers of Jesus the watchword isn't mine, but yours; not me, but you; not self, but others.

C)So here is a good basis to go off of –
In Essentials unity – non essentials charity (grace to have a differing opinion) – **All things love** – Same team

D)So #1 Be likeminded {See the big picture folks

#2 Be Compassionate – Having compassion

A)We get our English word sympathy from the Greek word compassion

B)It literally means "to feel the same thing."

1)Here's the best definition I've ever found for compassion:

- **is your hurt in my heart; your hurt, your pain, in my heart.**

C)Should be the norm if we realize we are all connected –

Romans 12:15 "Rejoice with those that rejoice, weep with those that weep."

1Corinthians 12:26, "If one member of the body suffers, we all suffer; if one member is honored, we are all honored together."

D)That's having compassion, feeling together.

1)#1 Be likeminded - #2 Be Compassionate

#3 Be Loving - Love as brothers – really? Me and my brother fought all the time

A)Albert and the Driveway

B)Love one another as brothers should."

1)Jesus washed feet – **Do to one another as I have done to you** –

C)Wash feet? – **feet are the part of us that come in contact with the world**

1)Give each other grace – give each other the benefit of the doubt –

D)**Love one another as I have loved you – Greater love has no man than this he lays down his life for his friends**

E)The world sees in us people who extend grace/ people who serve and seek to take care of one another.

1)Not quick to point out flaws in others

#4 Be tenderhearted

A)Now this is a very difficult word to translate.

B)Because the original word, "be tenderhearted," speaks of your intestines, **your kidneys, your guts, your heart, and your liver.**

C)So a literal translation of this reads this way: **"have good bowels."**

1)"Did I just hear that in church? Did my pastor just tell me to have good bowels?" **That's what it says.**

And here's why it says that:

A) A couple thousand years ago in the ancient world it was believed that the deepest emotions that a person feels is **in the intestinal region**.

B) We still experience that today We say, "So, what is your gut telling you?"

1) Or we speak about intestinal fortitude:
"I feel it in my gut."

C) Fear of public speaking – if I asked some of you to get up here – you would freak –
1) feel butterflies in your intestinal region, your stomach - Maybe even nauseated

So the deepest emotions were felt in the intestinal region. So even though it's hard to translate this A), it would better be rendered, "You must be deeply concerned for others."

B) Let me put it to you this way: the church ought to be the place where the walking wounded feel at home.

C) Christians should be people that those who are hurting can find refuge in.
1) Which means we can't be self-absorbed people.

D) Do you notice the hurting around you?
1) What do you feel when you see them?

E) Loser – too bad so sad – glad that is not me?
1) Or do you feel something inside of you – tug – I should do something

Lost as a kid? My mom in store – trying clothes – wait outside safe to do that when I was a kid
A) She would take too long felt lost

B) I see a lost kid – My heart leaps into motion –

C) Remember what it was like to be lost Spiritually
1) Being tenderhearted toward others

D) Be Likeminded, Be Compassionate, Be Loving
Be Tenderhearted

#5 Be Courteous – Say please and thank you?
A) No better translated be humble minded

B) This is would be a shocking idea to those living in the Greco-Roman era,

1) humble-mindedness was not considered a virtue, it was considered a weakness:

C) Only weak people are humble people."

1) When the Greeks conquered people, they turn them into humble-minded people---"They're our slaves."

D) The Greeks loved such qualities as self-confidence, self-esteem, self-assertiveness.

1) They would have loved the swagger of the modern hip-hop artists,

2) or Clint Eastwood, "Go ahead, make my day."

E) The Greek would have said yeah!

1) Peter says, "Nooo, - rather be humble-minded"

Humility is the grease that keeps the gears of relationships running smoothly.

A) F. B. Meyer, once said, "I used to think that God's gifts were on shelves one above the other, and the taller you grow in Christian grace, the more easily you could take them.

I have now come to realize that God's gifts are on shelves---one below the other. And it's not a matter of growing taller, but of stooping lower."

B) Humble-mindedness.

1) You know who Peter is describing in these 5 traits?

C) Jesus – this is how Jesus treated people –
1) Compassion on the multitude / Sheep without a shepherd

D) He loved unconditionally – He understood the lostness of man – **father forgave them.... Do**

This is our comfort – because in our flesh we are not like this

A) These are not natural traits in us – but the more time that we spend with Jesus

B) The Closer we get to Jesus – the more we move from Natural reactions to Super natural reactions

C) But the more time we spend with Jesus the more like him we become

1) That is when the world starts to see something in us that it rarely sees in anyone else

D) So Peter gives us this 5 fold description of what the world needs to see in us

1) But there is one more – the sixth one is harder

You see up to this point Peter has been talking about our interaction with people who like us / nice to us

A) BUT in V.9 he starts talking about that person who doesn't like us

B) Could be in reference to another Christian – or could be an unbeliever –

"Not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing."

C) #6 Be a blessing

➤ **Return meanness with kindness and insults with blessings**

D) When people are being mean – believers or unbelievers – Don't hit back –

1) don't fight back – don't yell back

E) Instead seek to Bless them? - Really?

1) Yes Peter says we are called to this- When

Luke 6:27-29 ²⁷ "But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. ²⁹ To him who strikes you on the *one* cheek, offer the other also.

A) PASTORS SON – Not the idea

B) Is Jesus saying that we should be push overs? – No – but he is saying repay evil with Kindness

1) Kill them with Kindness

C) People who are mean are usually 9x out of 10 are people who are hurting

1) Reactions are symptoms of their own hurt or depravity

When you treat people who are mean to you with kindness it disarms them

A) They don't know how to respond

B) You have been blessed by God – shown grace to – to be a blessing to others – show them grace

C) Powerful tool in witnessing

I came across a fascinating study. It was actually called "Blessers versus Converters."

A) The study was based on two teams of missionaries that went to Thailand.

B) And they both went to Thailand with two distinctly different missional strategies.

C) The converters went with the sole intention of just converting people. Evangelizing people.

D) The blessers went with the intention of just blessing people.

1) They said wherever God sends us, we are going to be a blessing to that place and that people.

After two years, here's what they discovered.

A) First, they discovered that the blessers' presence in the community resulted in tremendous amount of social good. **Not so with the converters.**

B) Secondly, and this was surprising, the blessers actually had 50X as many conversions as the converters.

C) The blessers helped 50X times more people find their way back to God.

D) Encourage you to pray Lord how can I be a blessing to those around me

1) My friends and my enemies –

E) Do what he tells you – He will blow your mind

Last we see the results of living this way V.12-16 Peter quotes Psalm 34

12 For "He who would love life And see good days,
13 Let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit. (Watch how we talk)

14 Let him turn away from evil and do good;
(Live uprightly)

Let him seek peace and pursue it. (pursue being peacemakers) – Different mentality from the world

15 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
And His ears are open to their prayers;

16 But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.

Two results –

#1 Love life and see Good days

A) Enjoy life more! Others will enjoy having you around.

B) When you are seeking to see how you can be a blessing to others

C) Proverbs – the power of life and death are in the tongue

D) Power to speak death into people and situations or power to speak life –

1) Life is a lot more fun – when speaking life -

So that is one result

#2 The eyes and ears of God will be toward you.

A) Eyes of the Lord being toward his people throughout the OT speak of watchful affection – And not Judgment

B) His eyes are on you and his ears will be open to you

1) Like Parent toward their child / grandchild – Play

C) Charles Spurgeon - He observes them with approval and tender consideration; they are so dear to him that he cannot take his eyes off them;

He watches each one of them as carefully and intently as if there were the only creature in the universe.

His ears are open unto their cry. His whole mind is occupied about them: if slighted by all others they are not neglected by him.

Their cry he hears at once, even as a mother is sure to hear her sick babe... and he is not slow to answer his children's voice. Charles Spurgeon

D) That is God's heart toward you – He is watching you with a heart of affection – My child

1) My Dad – Is he watching - thumbs up – gave me confidence – that is the idea – rooting for you

E) Mom – Home run – Milk Shake ☺

But there is a contrast – His face is against them that do evil –

A) The evil and rebellious he looks at different – His face shows his sorrow and anger

B) My Dad was angry or disappointed – you could see it on his face – Start crying –

C) How do you want God to look at you? – Child or one who is rebellious –

D) All depends on Your heart with Jesus?