

FIRST PETER

The Christian's Life in Exile —Part 19

3:8-12—“The Unity and Love of God’s People”—August 9, 2015

*“What is unity after all? It is the sharing of something in common. We are not united to each other by an act of our will, as if the tie that binds is that we all happen to be people who have decided to follow Jesus. We cannot simply determine to be one in Christ. Jesus prayed, “Sanctify them by the truth; your Word is truth.” —Michael Horton, *We Believe**

The Christian’s Election and Exile—1 Peter 1:1-2

The Christian’s Living Hope—1 Peter 1:3-11

The Christian’s Life in Relation to God—1 Peter 1:13-2:3

The Christian’s Position in the People of God—1 Peter 2:4-10

The Christian’s Obligations in the People of God—1 Peter 2:11-3:12

The Attitudes and Actions of Christians—1 Peter 3:8-12

- These verses serve as Peter’s summary of the entire Household Code:
- Christians have a responsibility to honor God in their attitudes and actions towards other _____ as well as to _____.

In Relation to Fellow Christians:

“⁸ Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.

“...unity of mind...”—ὁμόφρων—homophrōn: Refers primarily to unity of _____.

“...sympathy...”—συμπαθής—sympathēs: Refers to the sharing of _____ and _____.

“...brotherly love...”—φιλάделφος—philadelphos: Refers to mutual _____.

“...a tender heart...”—εὐσπλαγχνος—eusplagchnos: Refers to _____.

“...a humble mind...”—ταπεινόφρων—tapeinophrōn: Refers to the virtue of _____.

In Relation to Non-Christians:

⁹ *Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.”*

- Peter’s instructions anticipate hostility from the surrounding culture and are in line with Paul’s teaching in Rom. 12:17 and 1 Thess. 5:15.

“Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling but on the contrary, bless...”

⇒ “bless”—**εὐλογέω**—eulogēō: Refers to the invoking of God’s _____.

⇒ Christians are to follow the teachings (Matt. 5:43-44; Luke 6:27-28) and example (1 Pet. 2:23) of Jesus in this matter.

“...for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.”

⇒ Christians can _____ others because they have been blessed and are promised a blessed inheritance in Christ. (1 Pet. 1:4-5, 13).

Peter’s Biblical Support: Psalm 34:12-16

“¹⁰ For, Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep 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 prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

- For Peter, a Christian’s quality of life is not based on his circumstances. Rather, it is based on living out the faith that we claim to possess:

⇒ Our words: *“...let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit...”*

⇒ Our actions: *“...let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it.”*

Peter’s use of Psalm 34

This Psalm was written by David after harrowing experience as a _____ in a foreign land.

A major theme of the Psalm is the _____ of the Lord.

The words of the Psalm anticipate the _____ of Christ to rescue and redeem His _____.