



BAND of BROTHERS

SPRING SERIES 2022 – WEEK 7

### **1 Peter 3:8-12: Subjection, Suffering, and Sanctification**

*Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. – 1 Peter 3:8 ESV*

- **Be Encouraged**

- Peter has been specific in the last few passages
  - Servants be subject to your masters – 2:18
  - Wives submit to your husbands – 3:1
  - Husbands show honor to your wives – 3:7
- Peter takes a broader view
  - He addresses everyone in the audience
  - *Telos*
    - “The principal end, aim, purpose”
    - This is the conclusion of what he started in 2:11
    - Do good

- **Christian Community**

*Finally, all of you, have **unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.** – 1 Peter 3:8 ESV*

- Peter gives five commands that should be a part of the Christian life
  - Remember, these things are counter to what the world would do
  - Peter is addressing the entire community of believers

1. **Unity of Mind**

- We should have one mind despite our differences  
ὁμόφρων – homophrōn  
Root word for harmonious

- We should live harmoniously among other believers

*I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you **be united in the same mind and the same judgment.** – 1 Corinthians 1:10 ESV*

- Unity of mind does not mean mindlessness

“The plea is to have agreement on the substantive matters that draw us together.” – R.C. Sproul, [www.ligonier.org](http://www.ligonier.org)

- Having a unified mind draws us back to Christ
- We can’t be of one mind if we don’t know the mind of Christ
- We have to collectively know the mind of Christ

*I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. – John 17:20,21 NLT*

## 2. Sympathy

- Showing empathy and compassion
- Caring deeply about the needs of others
  - It means “getting involved”

“Sympathetic means suffering with another by entering into and sharing the feelings of others.” – Dr. Thomas Constable, *Notes on 1 Peter*

- Think about the context of who he just got done writing about
  - How do you show sympathy to a slave, woman married to an unbeliever?

*Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. – Galatians 6:2 ESV*

*If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. – 1 Corinthians 12:26 ESV*

- This has the potential to get messy
- We weep with those who weep
- Jesus is the perfect example of this

*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. – Hebrew 4:15 ESV*

- Even in our sin, Jesus stepped down and sympathized with us
- He became one of us and there is nothing more empathetic than that

### 3. Brotherly Love

- This is a fraternal type of love
  - Love like you would love a brother
  - From the Greek root *Philos*
- We should be devoted to one another in love

*Let brotherly love continue.* – Hebrews 13:1 ESV

*Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.* – Romans 12:10 ESV

- Outdo one another in showing submission
- By loving this way, we are showing the love of Christ

*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.* – John 13:34-35 ESV

- This is a love that unites all believers
- God has chosen to love others through us
  - Wouldn't you want to have the moment of Jesus coming alongside you?
  - This happens when you do this to others
- Remember context:
  - Coming alongside the slave
  - Coming alongside the wife who is married to an unbeliever
  - Keep loving

### 4. Tender Heart

- Literally means strong bowels
- Deep-seated kind of emotion
  - Takes loving to a much deeper level

“Kind-hearted” means feeling affectionately, compassionately, and deeply for someone else.” – Dr. Thomas Constable, *Notes on 1 Peter*

*Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they may collapse on the way.”* – Matthew 15:32 NIV

- Manifest itself in action
- Being physically and emotionally moved
- You can't help but do something

#### 5. Humble Minded

- Humility, lowness of mind, friendly, kind, courteous
- Being an understanding friend

*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, **clothe yourselves** with compassion, kindness, **humility**, gentleness and patience.* – Colossians 3:12 NIV

- This is putting others needs about your own

*Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but **in humility count others more significant than yourselves**. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.* – Philippians 2:3-4 ESV

- This applies to the purposes of God as well as the needs of others
- Not thinking less of yourself
- Humility of mind is thinking of others better than yourself

*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.* – 1 Peter 3:9 ESV

- Do not repay evil for evil
  - “When he suffered, he did not threaten.” – 2:23
- Do not repay reviling with reviling
 

*When he was reviled, he did not revile in return.* – 2:23
- We are not doing this alone
  - As a community do not repay reviling for reviling or evil for evil
  - If you are being attacked, persecuted...BLESS

*And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”* – Luke 23:34 ESV

- We are called to bless others even in our trials or hardships
- This comes with being a child of God

*You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you... For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? – Matthew 5:44-47 ESV*

- The real test of love in our lives is the way we demonstrate it to those who do not love us
    - We have the responsibility of blessing those who are against us
  - Follow the example of Jesus (2:21)
    - We make him known by the way we live our lives
    - Actions speak louder than words
  - We are to do this in community
    - This is not done individualistically, but in community
    - We do this together
- **The Good Life**

*“Whoever desires to love life  
and see good days,  
let him keep his tongue from evil  
and his lips from speaking deceit;  
let him turn away from evil and do good;  
let him seek peace and pursue it.  
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.” – 1 Peter 3:10-12*

    - Peter uses Psalm 34 to address the wants of his readers
      - They wanted to love life and see good days
        - They thought this would be the result of them coming to faith
        - The opposite was happening
        - They misunderstood what the good life was
    - They were facing trials, tribulations, persecution
      - The natural tendency was to react in anger, resentment, hatred
      - Peter calls them to live differently
        - *Keep your tongue from evil*
        - *Don’t speak deceit*
        - *Turn away from evil*
        - *Do good*
        - *Seek peace and pursue it*
    - Consider the context of Psalm 34 in the life of David
      - He had just lied to a priest for food
      - He takes the sword of Goliath to Gath, Goliath’s hometown
      - Acts insane to stay alive
      - Then he writes this Psalm
        - David learned to trust the Lord

*Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!  
Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!  
Oh, fear the Lord, you his saints,  
for those who fear him have no lack!  
The young lions suffer want and hunger;  
but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing. – Psalm 34:8-10 ESV*

- The “happy days” that Peter mentions doesn’t always mean we have a trouble-free life

*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. – Psalm 34:10*

*Righteous* → Those who do good  
*Unrighteous* → Those who do evil

- We experience true joy when we face trials and unpleasant circumstances in a Christlike manner

*Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. – James 1:2-4 ESV*

- **Discussion questions**

We are called to do good in this life even in suffering. What in our lives is preventing us from doing that?

Our idea of the good life is different from the world’s. Which “good life” are you seeking?

Of the five characteristics Peter listed, which is the most difficult to live out?



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SPRING SERIES 2022 – WEEK 8 HOMEWORK

### **1 Peter 3:13-22: An Ark in the Storm**

The people to whom Peter wrote were having a difficult time. They were followers of Christ who found themselves facing unexpected and difficult circumstances. Things had not turned out quite the way they had expected. By placing their personal faith in Christ, they had put themselves at personal risk, and they were confused by it all. But Peter wanted them to know that their persecution would be accompanied by great blessing.

All throughout this letter, Peter keeps focusing their attention back on the promise of their coming salvation. It was their future inheritance, promised to them by God and paid for by Christ, that should motivate them during their present troubles. And Peter uses the example of Noah and the Ark as an example of how God rescues His own out of their troubles. The storm came, the flood waters rose, and countless people lost their lives. But God spared His own. He kept them safely in the Ark and delivered them through those dark and harrowing days.

For Peter, Jesus was the ultimate Ark who would protect His people from the coming judgment and their present suffering. The waves would rise and fall, the winds would blow, but Jesus would be a reliable vessel in which to weather the storms of life.

- Read 1 Peter 3:13-22. Write down any thoughts that jump out at you from these verses.
- Set aside some time to read pages 53-60 of Ken's Devotionalary™ on 1 Peter.
- According to everything we have studied thus far, what do you think Peter means in verse 13 when he refers to "being zealous for what is good?" What is the "good" he has in mind?

What are some practical ways we can “honor Christ as holy” in our hearts (vs 15)?

Why is it important that we be “prepared to make a defense” for the hope that is in us (vs 15)? What exactly is that hope and how are we to defend it?

- Read verse 17 carefully. What is your immediate response to this verse?

According to verse 18, what was the purpose behind Christ’s suffering and what does this have to do with our willingness to suffer for doing good?

- To better understand verses 18-20, go back and read the story of Noah’s ark found in Genesis 6-8. Why do you think Peter used this story with the congregations in Asia Minor? What is the point he is trying to drive home?
- Read the following quote from Ken’s Devotional™ on 1 Peter:  
“Through his obedience in constructing the ark, Noah demonstrated righteousness to sinful humanity. He gave visible evidence of his faith in God by carrying out the command to build a “vessel” of salvation. And Peter indicates that God “did not spare the ancient world, but...brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly” (2 Peter 2:5 ESV). Yet, because Noah and his family heeded the call of God and entered the ark, they were spared from death.”

What does the ark have to do with Jesus’ death on the cross?

According to verse 21, water baptism is meant to be a reflection of the ark and the body of Christ. How is this comparison meant to be an encouragement in our times of trouble?