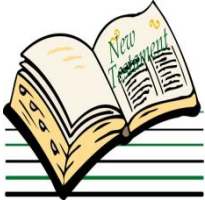


## Sermon Notes



**Title:** *The Call to Bless and to Be a Blessing*

**Text:** I Peter 3:8-12

**Theme:** We should not expect a blessing from the LORD if we refuse to bless, if we retaliate and curse and insult in return. Doing so shows that we really don't have faith in the LORD. If you take this call to bless and to be a blessing seriously, you will look to the LORD God for strength and grace.

I. Qualities that \_\_\_\_\_ the Christian Community (8)

II. A Distinctive Mark of \_\_\_\_\_ Christian  
\_\_\_\_\_ (9)

III. \_\_\_\_\_ From Scripture (10-12)

## IV. Applications

A. Brotherly love lies at the \_\_\_\_\_ of the qualities that \_\_\_\_\_ the Church as the family of God. Without it, everything else is \_\_\_\_\_.

B. The Christian community should be a place that feels like "\_\_\_\_\_."

C. What \_\_\_\_\_ the Church together is \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ in the Gospel.

D. We are not called to make our detractors lives \_\_\_\_\_ . We are called to \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_ .

Next Week Read: I Peter 3:13-22

Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group:

1. To whom is Peter directing his instructions (v. 8a)?
2. Name the five qualities that Peter specifies (v. 8).
3. What is the heart of this list (v. 8)?
4. What rhetorical device does Peter use to arrange these qualities that serves to highlight the core of these virtues?
5. With respect to those who oppose the Christian, what does Peter prohibit Christians from doing (v. 9a)?
6. What are Christians supposed to do when they are mistreated (v. 9b)?
7. What specific passage of Scripture does Peter use to support his instructions?
8. If Christians desire to love life and see good days, how should they talk (v. 10b)?
9. What are Christians to pursue (v. 11b)?
10. What is the Lord's response to the righteous (v. 12a)? To the unrighteous (v.12b)?
11. How can "brotherly love" be at the heart of the Church's life, when Christ is supposed to be the center?
12. What does "brotherly love" look like in a congregation? In your life?
13. How does Paul's teaching on love in 1 Corinthians 13 relate to brotherly love?
14. What keeps a particular church from feeling like a family? How can a congregation promote and foster a family atmosphere? What should be done about those who refuse or ignore trying to be like a family in the church?
15. How can a congregation have unity of mind when individual members do not agree on every detail of doctrine and application of those doctrines? What might be the difference between unity and uniformity?
16. Must you sacrifice your convictions for the sake of being united? Explain.
17. When there is a disruption of unity in a family or in a church congregation, what would be a strategy for gaining unity?
18. When have you found it very difficult to refrain from repaying evil for evil or reviling for reviling?
19. Is there anyone right now who is personally giving you a hard time? How do you believe the LORD would have you respond? What are some ways that you could be a blessing to this person or persons?
20. Why do you suppose this personal ethic for the Christian would not apply in the same way to a governmental official, such as a president or a king?