

1 **How to love life and see good days**

1 Peter 3:8-12

2 **1 Peter 3:8-12**

And finally, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, showing mutual affection, compassionate, humble, not repaying evil for evil or insult for insult, but on the other hand blessing others, because for this reason you were called, so that you could inherit a blessing. For the one who wants to love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips must not speak deceit. And he must turn away from evil and do good; he must 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. (Lexham English Bible)

3 **Peter is preaching to us**

- He is really using the words of Christ (Matthew 5:43-48) and the words of King David (Psalm 34:12-16)
- He is also repeating some things he has already said in this epistle of 1 Peter (for emphasis) and expanding further on it
- Like every good preacher:
 - He repeats himself a lot
 - And he keeps saying “finally” without meaning it.....
 - Finally = “In summary”

4 **Matthew 5:43-48**

- *You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor’ and ‘Hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven, because he causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not the tax collectors also do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing that is remarkable? Do not the Gentiles also do the same? Therefore you be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

5 **First, Peter addresses all his readers**

- Peter started by instructing all his readers in 1 Peter 2 by telling them that:
 - They were a royal priesthood
 - They were foreigners and sojourners in this world
 - They should abstain from fleshly lusts that would war against their mind, will and emotions
 - They should live in such a way as to let others see their good works and one day glorify God when the Holy Spirit convicted them of their sins

6 **Then, he cites specific cases**

- Then Peter addressed some specific use cases of believers that needed to practice subjection to authority while adhering to Scriptural convictions:
 - We are all to be subject to government even if they do not have our best interests at heart
 - A household slave is to be subject to a master even if he is not godly
 - A Christian wife is to be subject to her husband, even if he is lost
 - Husbands, realize your wife has areas of dominion too (Proverbs 6:23 – father’s commandment, mother’s law) but honor her as the weaker vessel so that when you pray together your prayers are not hindered.

7 **The focus all along**

- 1 Peter 1:7 -- *That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perishes, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*
- 1 Peter 2:17 -- *Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.*
- We are to have a reverential fear of God and we should live to glorify God.
 - This is why we practice submission to authorities who might not have our best interests at heart or treat us well.

8 **Now Peter addresses “all of you”**

1 • 3:8 – “And finally, all of you...”

- Here he gives practical principles for living peacefully in a pagan culture:
 - Be harmonious
 - Be sympathetic
 - Show mutual affection
 - Be compassionate
 - Be humble
 - Don’t repay evil for evil (no vengeance)
 - Don’t trade insults with others
- 2 – Bless others, so you can inherit a blessing
 - Refrain your tongue from evil
 - Refrain your lips from speaking deceit
 - Turn away from evil
 - Do good
 - Seek peace and pursue it
 - Be righteous

9 **God’s goal for us**

- *...because for this reason you were called, so that you could inherit a blessing*
- Then Peter quotes from Psalm 34 and elaborates a bit on it:
 - *For “The one who wants to love life and see good days...”*
- What do you think about those goals?
 - Inherit a blessing
 - Love life
 - See good days

10 **Peter is preaching on Psalm 34:12-16**

- *Who is the man who desires life, who loves many days in order to see good? Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. Turn from evil and do good. Seek peace and pursue it. The eyes of Yahweh are toward the righteous, and his ears toward their cry for help. The face of Yahweh is against evildoers, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. (LEB)*
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11 **Peter’s *hapax legomenon* (unique words)**

- Harmony (ὁμόφρονες - *homophrones*) – to have the same mind or thinking about life
- Sympathetic (συμπαθεῖς, *sympathies*) – to suffer together with someone; your hearts go out to one another

- Romans 12:15 -- *Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.*
- James 1:27 -- *Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.*

12 Peter's unique words (2)

- To have brotherly love (φιλάδελφοι, *philadelphoi*) – to have brotherly love
 - "Love one another as brothers should"
- Humble (ταπεινόφρονες, *tapeinophrones*)
 - To have a mind with a lowly, broken spirit that senses it is devoid of any self-virtue, humbly petitioning One greater
 - To be "poor in spirit"
 - This was not a virtue in Hellenistic literature (Greek philosophers used it as a derogatory term)
 - Worldly people either puff themselves up or use false humility; Christians are to show true humility

13 Humility

- 2 brothers grew up on farm
- One became prominent lawyer in state capital
- Other stayed on farm
- "Why don't you go out and make a name for yourself and hold your head up high in the world like me?"

14 Compassionate

- This word for "compassionate" is used only twice in the NT
 - Εὐσπλαγχνοι, *eusplanchoi* – tender-hearted
 - Literally "good spleen" or "good bowels"

15 Don't retaliate (3:9)

- Paul taught this same thing
 - Romans 12:17 -- *Pay back no one evil for evil. Take thought for what is good in the sight of all people.*
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:15 -- *See to it that no one pays back evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue good toward one another and toward all people.*
 - 1 Corinthians 4:12 -- *See to it that no one pays back evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue good toward one another and toward all people.*
- Jesus said it this way:

16 World's view on retaliation

- 2 Jesus said (Matthew 5:39) -- *But I say to you, do not resist the evildoer, but whoever strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other to him also.*

17 To not retaliate, we must forgive

- Colossians 2:13-14 -- *And although you were dead in the trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, he made you alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, having destroyed the certificate of indebtedness in ordinances against us, which was hostile to us, and removed it out of the way by nailing it to the cross.*
 - We must give up the resentment or desire to punish those who have hurt us; we must overlook their offense and cancel their debt

18 Two kinds of forgiveness

- When God forgives us, it is *aphiemi*, which means 'to put away.'
 - Christ bore our sins on the Cross, paying the penalty, satisfying the just demands of His law
- When we forgive others, it is *charizomai*.
 - Means 'to be gracious,' or 'to give freely.'
 - It can also mean to cancel a debt.
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- With some folks, we have to "rinse and repeat"
 - They continue a pattern of criticism or attack
 - We have to repeat a pattern of forgiveness

19 Ephesians 4:29-5:2

- *Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.*
- *And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*
- *Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:*
- *And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor.*

20 The opposite of forgiveness (Ephesians 4:30-5:2)

- Bitterness (*pikria*):
 - A smoldering resentment, a brooding grudge-filled attitude.
 - "It is the spirit of irritability that keeps a person in perpetual animosity, making him sour and venomous (MacArthur)."
- Wrath (*thumos*)
 - A person holding a grudge is more likely to lose his temper
 - Beware of angry people – they stir up strife wherever they go
 - Proverbs 22:24 -- *Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go:*
 - Proverbs 29:22 -- *An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man abounds in transgression.*

21 The opposite of forgiveness (2)

- Anger (*orge*) -- "A more internal smoldering, a subtle and deep feeling."
 - Now the outbursts of wrath have turned to a smoldering deep anger that turns to hatred.
 - This is now the anger that plots to hurt another.

22 The opposite of forgiveness (3)

- Clamor (*krauge*): "The shout or outcry of strife and reflects the public outburst that reveals loss of control."
 - Now the person really loses it.
 - Everywhere they go, it seems they are out of control in expressing their rage.
 - There is no polite silence for those they have barely met; even in this social setting they do not mind pouring out their venom on all who will hear.
 - You never meet this kind of person in a church that they do not come up to you and say something negative.

23 **The opposite of forgiveness (4)**

- Slander, (*blasphemia* = English blasphemy) -- "The ongoing defamation of someone that rises from a bitter heart."
 - Now the person has little else to do in their lives but make a continual effort to slander and bad-mouth others.
 - Their bitterness is no longer a pastime but their life's occupation.

24 **The opposite of forgiveness (5)**

- Malice (*kakia*): The general term for evil that is the root of all vices.
 - Finally Paul just says that the attitude turns to nothing else but EVIL.
 - This is the attitude set on fire by hell.
 - And is not that what James warns about in James 3?

25 **James 3:1-6 (Power to direct)**

Not many should become teachers, my brothers, because you know that we will receive a greater judgment. For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect individual, able to hold in check his whole body also. And if we put bits in the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we also guide their whole bodies. Behold also ships: although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the inclination of the pilot wishes.

26 **James 3:1-6 (Power to destroy)**

So also the tongue is a small member of the body and boasts great things. Behold how small a fire sets ablaze how great a forest! And the tongue is a fire! The world of unrighteousness, the tongue, is set among our members, defiling the whole body and setting on fire the course of human existence, being set on fire by hell.

- The problem is that many Christians have given their heart to Christ but still let the devil run their tongues!

27 **Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindles...**28 **Hebrews 12:15**

- *Looking diligently lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled.*
- What happens when we fail to forgive:
 - Our resentment festers into bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, evil-speaking, and malice
 - Bitterness becomes an acid that "does more damage to the vessel in which it is stored than to the victim upon whom it is poured"
 - Our bitterness spreads to others around us

29 **Forgiveness is a matter of perspective**

- Young girl lived with mother and grandfather
- Had to feed grandfather that was confined to a wheelchair
- She did it faithfully, but not joyfully
- Got tired of doing it and told mother, "From now on, YOU feed grandfather."
- Mother told her a story
- We need to remember Christ's sacrifice for us!

30 **Seek peace and pursue it**

- We have to be INTENTIONAL about seeking peace
 - *not repaying evil for evil or insult for insult, but on the other hand blessing others...*
 - We start seeking peace when we return a blessing to those who mistreat us
 - 5-year-old girl -- “Forgiveness is the smell a flower makes when you step on it”
 - Blessing (εὐλογούντες, *eulogountes*) – to speak well of someone (people quit arguing with someone who is speaking well of them)
 - This is a different word from “blessed” as used in the Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:3-11 – Μακάριοι – fortunate or privileged)
 - Peter emphasizes that must choose to:
 - Visualize what that mean, nasty person can be with Christ and bless them with that
 - Find some good quality that the person has and praise them for that

31 God cares what comes out our mouth!

- James 3:10 -- *Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.*
- Romans 12:14 -- *Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.*
- A curse can be something as simple as:
 - “You idiot!”
 - “You’re good for nothing!”
 - “You won’t amount to anything.”
- Returning curses increases evil
- Returning blessings overcomes evil

32 What is a blessing?

- An act of faith – give vision for what God wants to do in someone’s life
 - Hebrews 11:20-21 -- *By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff.*
- An act of intention
 - 1 Peter 4:11 -- *If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

33 Bless God

- Blessing God
 - Psalm 34:1 -- *I will bless the LORD at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth.*
 - Psalm 16:7 -- *I will bless the LORD, who hath given me counsel: My reins also instruct me in the night seasons.*
 - Psalm 103:2 -- *Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all his benefits:*
- Speak well of God in the ears of everyone you encounter!

34 Bless others

- Jude 24 -- *Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy*

- Begin with a short blessing – *The Lord bless you and keep you*”
- Expand the blessing – *The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you*
- Add more to it – *The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace*
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35 **Blessing examples**

- May you be filled with the knowledge of God’s will in all wisdom and understanding
- May you walk worthy of the Lord and please Him in all that you do
- May you stand fast in the Lord
- My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory
- You are chosen of God and ordained to bring forth much fruit

36 **Taming the tongue**

- Rohlinism – “A closed mouth gathers no feet”
 - Nothing is sometimes the best thing to say
 - But Peter would have you go an extra step – say a blessing!
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