

**Main Passage: 1 Peter 3:8-12****Theological Theme**

We are called to live in harmony with others.

**Introduction**

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Why are reactions like Brandt Jean's shocking to the world?

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Why is it important for Christians to show up this way?

**1. Be Like-Minded and Sympathetic (1 Peter 3:8)**

Peter's previous writing dealt with certain groups of people in the church. This section, though, is for all believers. Peter tells us to be "like-minded," but what does that mean? The Greek word that Peter used here means to be harmonious, or united in spirit.

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What words stand out to you in this verse? Why?

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What does it mean to be like-minded? What does it look like for us to truly love one another?

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Why is it important for Christians to live set apart from the world in this way?

**2. Pay Back Evil with Blessing (1 Peter 3:9)**

Peter next addressed action we should avoid: paying back evil for evil. This is extremely relevant for today. Our culture jokes about "villain origin stories" and Hollywood invests in blockbusters about dramatically (and often violently) getting revenge after someone has been wronged.

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What does Peter advise to avoid here? What makes this challenging in daily life?

- ② How have you seen this type of counterintuitive living lead to greater unity?
- ② What about living in this way makes it challenging for others to accuse Christians of wrongdoing? How does this serve to also point to Christ?

### 3. The Eyes of the Lord Are on the Righteous (1 Peter 3:10-12)

When we live in unity, with a heart that is sympathetic, loving, compassionate, and humble with others, not repaying evil for evil but repaying evil with blessing, not only will we receive blessing from the Lord for a faithful life, but we will also love life and see good days. This is something that bears itself out in our world. People who live God's way are more joyful. People who hold onto the need for revenge, refuse to forgive, and live in a divisive way are often miserable in comparison. Avoiding an evil life isn't God stealing our fun (as is sometimes perceived by nonbelievers), it's actually for our best.

- ② Peter quoted Psalm 34. How is the context of this psalm pertinent to Peter's instruction in today's passage? (See 1 Samuel 21 for further context.)
- ② What else do you know about what the Bible teaches about pursuing peace with others? What does this teach us about God and His character?
- ② What makes it so difficult to pursue peace on an ongoing basis? How can we rely on Christ as we seek to do so?

## Conclusion

- ② What are some ways we could work to be more unified with the body of Christ?
- ② Do you find it difficult to resist getting even when someone wrongs you? What are ways we could seek to respond in a more Christlike way in situations like this?
- ② How does remembering that God sees, hears, and will judge everything justly help us respond with grace? Who do you need to tell about God's grace today?