



## Lesson #11: Summing up Godly Relationships (1 Peter 3:8-12)

Our world is filled with heavy hearted people who are suffering the sorrow brought on by \_\_\_\_\_ relationships. In response a whole industry has sprung up. Self-help books, groups that provide support, and the list could go on of those who seek to sell answers to the many who are suffering. Dear friend, Peter has a message of \_\_\_\_\_ that I trust you will listen to and listen to carefully. **Only God can provide tranquility to a trauma filled relationship.**

In the midst of ruined relationships I can think of no other advisement any more practical than the advisement to which we turn this morning. As we open to 1 Peter 3:8-13 we come to a passage that is packed with powerful and pointed instruction on how we should live our lives amongst the brethren.

### Picture Christ \_\_\_\_\_ in Your Relationships (3:8)

If you are going to know peace in your relationships you must relate to other lovingly. In verse 8 Peter gives some carefully and symmetrically arranged concepts that we need to see if we would relate to others lovingly.

- A. Lovingly practice \_\_\_\_\_**  
Notice how these phrases in verse 8 are symmetrically related.  
"Be ye all of one \_\_\_\_\_ ... be \_\_\_\_\_."  
Someone has said that the disciples must have been "Honda Christian's" because in Acts 4 they met in "one \_\_\_\_\_." Literally, they had " \_\_\_\_\_." Where did that go?
- B. Lovingly practice \_\_\_\_\_**  
Following that same practice of symmetry Peter uses phrase 2 & 4 to point out our need to lovingly practice sympathy.  
"Having \_\_\_\_\_ one of another ... be \_\_\_\_\_."  
That second phrase literally means to have the same suffering. But sympathy can never be practiced when we are \_\_\_\_\_.  
Selfishness is the polar opposite of sympathy.
- C. Lovingly practice \_\_\_\_\_**  
This verse challenges us to "be courteous." That literally means to have a mind that is brought \_\_\_\_\_. It's the same teaching that Christ gave when he said, "Go out and learn to \_\_\_\_\_ yourself."

### Proceed Through Adversity \_\_\_\_\_ in Your Relationships (3:9)

Hold your life up to the mirror of God's Word and see if you truly follow rule #2. Do you \_\_\_\_\_ to adversity graciously?

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ instruction**  
Verse 9 first instructs us what NOT to do. You are not to have a \_\_\_\_\_ mentality either in action or expression. When someone has acted in an evil way towards you that does not give you a license to act in an \_\_\_\_\_ way towards them.
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ instruction**  
"Blessing" is the greek word from which we get our word " \_\_\_\_\_." It means to share something that provides honor and encouragement. It carries the idea of edifying. This text is saying that when someone hurts you deeply it is an opportunity for you to consider how you can share a \_\_\_\_\_.

### Pursue Truth \_\_\_\_\_ in Your Relationships (3:10-13)

Peter must have often been challenged by God's Word for here he challenges his readers to reason in all things biblically.

- A. Guard your \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 10)**  
Peter describes the wickedness of the world in various terms to give us a fuller picture of what he is referring to in verse 10.
- "Evil" – That which is \_\_\_\_\_ and should never be spoken among us.
  - "Guile" – That duplicity of nature. That \_\_\_\_\_ spirit.
- B. Guard your \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 11a)**  
Joy is never found in sin's \_\_\_\_\_. Joy is always found in the heavenly blessings of seeking after God. Are you willfully seeking after good? If not, you are willfully seeking after evil.
- C. Guard your \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 11b)**  
Here Peter bridges the gap between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Christians are to be categorized as those who seek peace and pursue it at all costs.
- D. Guard your \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 12)**  
When we are right with people \_\_\_\_\_ we will be right with God \_\_\_\_\_. God's face is against those who do evil. He is against those who willfully reject this teaching and still live in broken relationships.

### Concluding Thoughts

God has set a very high standard of \_\_\_\_\_ for His saints. It is indeed an impossible standard, apart from His \_\_\_\_\_. May God give us grace to understand and apply the words of this precious text about relationships in 1 Peter.