

BOTTOM LINE



1 Peter 3:8-17, ESV – ⁸ Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ For “Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; ¹¹ let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. ¹² 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.” ¹³ Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for doing evil.

Notes:

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SERMON-BASED STUDY

For the week of July 26, 2020

1 Peter 3:8-17

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 This weekend, we were reminded that we are commanded to live with one another in love marked by humility and tender sympathy. Why are humility and tender sympathy critical pieces of love?
- 2 Peter also reminds us to not repay evil with evil, but with blessing. Why is this a difficult thing to do? Share a time when you have repaid evil with blessing. What were the circumstances? What was the result?
- 3 In verse 15, Peter tells us to always be ready to share our hope with others. This is our testimony. What would you say to someone if they asked you about your hope in Christ?

DIGGING DEEPER

A *Matthew 5:44-48, ESV – ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

Romans 2:4, ESV – ⁴ Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

4 God clearly calls us to be imitators of His kindness. Based on the passages above, why should we be imitators of God's kindness?

5 Likewise, we are called to exhibit kindness to fellow believers and nonbelievers, alike. Which "group" do you tend to have more difficulty being kind toward? Why?

6 "Our faith is not our own. It is intended for others." In light of what we are studying, do you agree or disagree with this statement? Explain.

B *Philippians 4:4, 7, 9, 11, ESV* – ⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. ¹¹ Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.

1 Thessalonians 5:15-18, ESV – ¹⁵ See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

7 Not only does being imitators of God's kindness bring blessings to others, it brings blessings to ourselves. Looking at the passages above, describe the type of blessings we receive.

8 What kind of blessings might our "humanness" be looking for? How is this different from the blessings that Paul is speaking of?

9 Living according to Jesus' example of kindness toward others is not easy, but it does come with blessings. Describe a time when you have received blessings in the midst of suffering. Where was your focus? What were the circumstances? How were you blessed? How were others blessed?

TAKING IT HOME

Part of living the Christian life is being imitators of God's kindness toward others, both believers and nonbelievers. What new insight have you learned about how you are living your life, imitating God's kindness to others? What changes do you need to make in your life to better reflect God's kindness to others? Who in your life needs to receive some kindness? Share with your group or accountability partner what God is laying on your heart and pray that you will behave in a way that is pleasing to Christ.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Psalm 34:12-16
Luke 6:27-29, 35-36
Romans 12:14-21
1 Corinthians 4:12
Ephesians 4:2, 32; 5:20
Hebrews 13:1