

“Submission: A Path to Blessing”

1 Peter 3:8-12

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I. Introduction

- A. Peter opens this section with the word “finally.” (v. 8)
 - 1. Why?
 - a) He’s not concluding the letter
 - b) He’s summarizing his teaching on submission
 - 1) “Live a beautiful, lovely life” (1 Peter 2:12)
 - 2. What is a life of submission?
 - a) To the state (1 Peter 2:13)
 - b) In the workplace (1 Peter 2:18)
 - c) In the home (1 Peter 3:1,7)
 - d) In the church (1 Peter 3:8)
 - 3. Submission is not a popular subject today
 - a) Peter tells us that living in submission is the path to a blessed or happy life (v. 10)
 - b) If you want to enjoy life and see many happy days, then seek to be submissive.
 - c) Three things you need to cultivate:

II. Cultivate The Right Attitude (1 Peter 3:8)

* Peter gives us five attitudes that every Christian should cultivate. They are all a picture of loving submission and the fruit of the Spirit.

- A. Be like-minded (1 Peter 3:8)
 - 1. “Be ye of one mind”
 - 2. Is Peter saying that we must agree with each other on all issues?
 - a) No. It’s not a call for uniformity of opinion. It’s a call for unity of disposition.
 - b) It’s “united in spirit, aim, and purpose.”
 - c) Illustration- The human body- unity and diversity
 - d) It’s having the mind or attitude of Christ (Philippians 2)
- B. Be sympathetic (1 Peter 3:8)
 - 1. “Having compassion one of another” (v. 8)
 - 2. Sharing in the feelings of others (whether joy or sorrow)
 - 3. It’s your pain or joy in my heart.

- a) (1 Corinthians 12:26)
- 4. Sympathy and selfishness cannot coexist in the same heart.
 - a) William Barclay- *“As long as self is the most important thing in the world, there can be no sympathy. Sympathy depends on the willingness to forget self, to step outside self, and to identify oneself with the pains and sorrows of others; It is only when we die to self that we can live for others. Sympathy comes to the heart when Christ reigns within the heart.”*
 - b) “And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it, or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it” (1 Corinthians 12:26).
 - c) “Rejoice with them that do” (Romans 12:15)
- 5. Ask God to give you a sympathetic heart.
- C. Love the brethren
 - 1. “Love as brethren” (v. 8)
 - a) Greek- *philadelphia*
 - b) Love as brethren because you are one, not just because you find each other lovable.
 - c) We are members of the same family with God as our Father.
 - d) It’s the proof we are saved.
- D. Be compassionate
 - 1. “Be pitiful.” (v. 8)
 - a) Contrast “pity” and “compassion.”
 - b) Jesus was “moved with compassion.”
 - c) It’s a Christian virtue.
 - d) It’s a sensitivity toward the needs of others.
- E. Be humble
 - 1. “Be courteous.” (v. 8)
 - a) Again, Christ exemplified this virtue.
 - b) A humble person is a submissive person.
 - c) God gives grace to the humble, but the proud He knows far off.
 - d) How to
- F. How to have a blessed life
 - 1. Be like-minded
 - 2. Be sympathetic
 - 3. Love as a brethren
 - 4. Be compassionate
 - 5. Be humble
 - a) Cultivate the right attitude. It leads to a blessed life

III. Cultivate the Right Response (1 Peter 3:9)

A. Peter now moves to our response to people who mistreat us

1. In the church or from the unbelieving world?
 - a) The response is the same
 - b) Don't return evil for evil
 - c) Instead, blessing for evil
 - d) Peter learned this lesson the hard way
 - e) Christians are to love their enemies
 - 1) (Matthew 5:38-48)
 - f) It's your calling, so we can be blessed (v. 9)

IV. Cultivate a Desire for a Blessed Life (1 Peter 3:10-12)

A. Peter is using scripture to support what he just taught

1. (Psalm 34:12-16)
2. We should live by the Word of God
 - a) If you want a blessed life (v. 10)
 - b) If you want to see good days, don't try to escape life or just endure it—enjoy life

B. If you want a blessed life

1. Control your tongue (v. 10b)
 - a) Our tongues get us in so much trouble
 - b) We need the Holy Spirit
2. Turn away from sin (v. 11a)
 - a) Turn away from evil
 - b) Literally “swerving to avoid”
 - c) We must hate sin
3. Do good and seek peace (v. 11b)
 - a) “Blessed are the peacemakers” (Matthew 5:9)

C. Peter gives us three reasons or motives to live a life of loving submission

1. “The eyes of the Lord” (v. 12a)
 - a) His watchful care
2. “The ears of the Lord” (v. 12b)

- a) His answered prayers
- 3. “The fear of the Lord” (v. 12c)
 - a) “But the face of the Lord is against them that do evil” (v. 12)
 - b) His judgment and displeasure
 - c) Peter omitted the second half of Psalm 34:16. It says, “to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.”

V. Conclusion

A. Would you like to have a blessed life?

- 1. Submit your life to Jesus
- 2. Submit in life to others
 - a) His eyes are watching over you
 - b) His ears are open to your prayers
 - c) Reject Jesus and live for yourself, and His face will be against you.
You will experience His judgment.
 - d) But the cross changes everything