



Week 9: I Peter 3: 8-12

LOOK BACK

1. Take some time and share a highlight and a challenge from last week.
2. Spend a little time sharing how you're seeing God work in your life right now.

LOOK UP

Read I Peter 3:8-12

To "...have unity of mind..." is an essential unity for all of God's people.

1. What mind are we to have? (I Corinthians 2:16)
If we do not know what is the mind of Jesus we cannot have the unity of mind of which Peter speaks. How do we know the mind of Jesus? (answer: We must know God's word.)

We are to have the same mind but that does not mean uniformity.

2. How can we have unity without forcing uniformity? How does this play out among Christian denominations? How is Christianity different than say, Islam in this area?

Peter lists 5 normative, yet essential, qualities every Christian should have:

- Unity of mind –
- Sympathy – See Romans 12:15 and I Corinthians 12:26
- Brotherly love – I Thessalonians 4:9-10
- Tender heart – Matthew 11:28-29
- Humble mind – Philippians 2:5ff

3. Are these normative in your life? They are essential for body life in the church! Why?

In verse 9 Peter explains. The natural response to hostility is retaliation. Peter instructs the church to imitate Jesus (see Matt. 5:44-47 and Luke 23:34). Rather than retaliation we are to bless instead. The word "bless" means to "speak well".

4. How intentional do we need to be in order to act in this way?

According to Peter we have been called to bless our enemies in order that we may be blessed! The logic follows; 'I want to be blessed therefore I will bless those who are against me.'

Peter quotes Psalm 34:12-16. Notice in verse 11 of our passage that it is not enough to merely turn from evil we are to turn to and do good.

5. Respond to the following: "Doing good is often difficult because as a general rule, evil is rewarded immediately and the reward of doing good is often delayed."

Knowing that the Lord is watching and attentive to the prayers of the righteous should provide us with powerful motivation!

LOOK FORWARD

1. What from this passage changes the way you see the upcoming week?
2. How can the group be praying for you this week?