



The Pursuit of Substance

A STUDY OF 1 PETER

April 14, 2024 - Part 6

1 PETER 3:8-22

⁸ Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. ⁹ Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. ¹⁰ For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. ¹¹ They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it. ¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." ¹³ Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." ¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. ¹⁷ For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. ¹⁹ After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits—²⁰ to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, ²¹ and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

To the Collective as a whole: Put off the Fateful Five (Malice, Deceit, Hypocrisy, Envy & Slander) and put on the **Healthy Five** (Like Minded, Sympathetic, Love One Another, Compassionate, Humble)

LIKE MINDED:

3675. ὁμόφρων, hōmōphrōn, hom-of´-rone; from the base of 3674 and 5424; like-minded, i.e. harmonious:— of one mind. ὁμόω, ōmōō.

AW TOZER

Unity comes not through uniformity – but through each individual, as different as he may be from the others, turning his gaze steadily upon the crucified and risen Jesus Christ. Unity comes not from a common language, or nationality, or race, or color, or political agenda, but from a common vision and posture as we all with unveiled face behold the glory of the Lord and bow the knee before him.

Unity: A state of oneness or togetherness.

Unity is described as a harmonious bringing together of multiple elements. One part harmony can never be harmony. If every one was you or like you, unity could never be achieved.

SYMPATHETIC:

4835. συμπαθής, sumpathēs, soom-path-ace´; from 4841; having a fellow-feeling (“sympathetic”), i.e. (by impl.) mutually commiserative:— having compassion one of another.

Fellow feeling = Your people

LOVE ONE ANOTHER:

5361. φιλάδελφος, philadēlphōs, fil-ad´-el-fos; from 5384 and 80; fond of brethren, i.e. fraternal:— love as brethren.

A bond that is like close knit brothers. Brothers fight for sure, but there is a loyalty and bond that cannot be broken.

COMPASSIONATE:

2155. εὐσπλαγχνος, *ēusplagchnōs*, *yoo´-splangkh-nos*; from 2095 and 4698; well compassionated, i.e. sympathetic:— pitiful, tender-hearted.

Sympathy is not excuse to reside in victimhood, but grace to grow in victory.

HUMBLE:

5391. φιλόφρων, *philōphrōn*, *fil-of´-rone*; from 5384 and 5424; friendly of mind, i.e. kind:— courteous.

At your core, are you friendly? If someone else was going through a season a victory, would be happy for them and celebrate, or would you make it about you?

3 SIGNS YOUR WALKING IN THE HEALTHY FIVE

1. Your reactions, actions, and words are aligned in direction towards Jesus and love for others.

1 Peter 3:9-11: ⁹ Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. ¹⁰ For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. ¹¹ They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it.

2. There will be a healthy separation from those who don't align with Him towards you

1 Peter 3:13-16: ¹³ Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." ¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

Reaction to the distance that carnal minded believers and the world take towards you should be with gentleness and respect. They are your mission field.

3. Persecution will come to the obedient. So does supernatural protection.

1 Peter 3:17-20: ¹⁷ For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. ¹⁹ After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits—²⁰ to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water