

1 Peter 3:8-12 Discussion Questions

Feel free to choose what questions will be most helpful to your group to grow in their understanding of the Scripture and faithfully apply it to their lives.

Read 1 Peter 3:8-12

1. Peter opened up this passage by exhorting all of his readers to practice five virtues. In the sermon, Pastor Jason unpacked the meaning of each of them. Take a minute to review what each one means.

- *Unity of Mind: See Eph 4:4-6 for what it looks like.*
- *Sympathy: Ability to identify with or enter into someone else's struggle.*
- *Brotherly Love: A love for others in your community.*
- *Tender Heart: Compassionate so that you are stirred to action in response to the suffering of others.*
- *Humble Mind: humble toward both God and man. This manifests as a reverence and gratitude towards God and self-sacrificing service toward our fellow man.*

a. Which one of these were you the most struck (encouraged or challenged) by?

b. Which one have you experienced most in your own life?

c. How do these virtues reshape or challenge the way you tend to think about your relationships with others?

d. How do they reshape or challenge the way you tend to think of what biblical community ought to look like?

e. Where have you seen good examples of people living this out?

2. Peter then goes on to admonish that we follow Jesus' example in how we respond to those who insult, hurt, or reject us. Instead of reviling in return, we bless.

a. This can seem impossible. How can we do this? What enabled Jesus in his humanity to do this?

As Phil 2:3-5 reveals that Jesus focused on the needs of those around him and put that above his own personal interests.

1 Peter 3:23 teaches us that he fully entrusted himself to his Father's care.

He also walked in the power of the Spirit.

These are at least few things that help us get there.

b. Who in your life do you find yourself struggling to "bless"?

c. What would it look like for you to serve their interests about your own and be a blessing to them?

3. In our struggle to learn to bless those who curse us, Pastor Jason highlighted the importance of how we view ourselves in comparison to others. He said God has forgiven us despite the fact that the offense that we have committed towards God is worse than any offense that others do and can commit towards us. Is this true? Is what we have done to God worse than any offense that you experience at the hands of other? Why or why not?

a. If this is true, why is it so hard to think this way?

4. Peter then gives us some reasons for why we ought to live this way. He points to Ps. 34:12-16. How does this Psalm support Peter's point?

a. Each one of us find ourselves failing to live up to this Psalm. In some way, we have and continue to choose evil over good. These verses focus on two specific struggles: how we speak and pursuing and making peace with others.

b. How has the Lord convicted you in these areas?

c. For those who repent and trust in Jesus, God empowers us and transforms by his Spirit as we seek to follow Him. How have you seen the Lord transforming and sanctifying your life in these areas specifically or in general?