



# 1 Peter 3:8-12 - Part 2

# The qualities of godliness on display in the church (3:8-9)

- Power is given to manifest remarkable characteristics (3:8) - <sup>8</sup> *Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.*
- Gratification from retaliation is diminished in the light of forbearance and grace (3:9) - <sup>9</sup> *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.*

# Reflecting on the care and commitment of God to His people (3:10-12)

*“For Whoever desires to love life and see good days,”*

- Peter again quotes from the Old Testament.
  - Psalm 34:12–16
- Psalm 34 is written by David as he calls on the Lord to deliver him from the affliction he is experiencing.
- Afflicted and suffering members of the churches Peter is writing can certainly relate to the truths of this song.
- When we allow the fear of suffering and those who bring it, to exceed our fear of God, our reactions will be in the flesh and not in the Spirit.

# Reflecting on the care and commitment of God to His people (3:10-12)

- “*For*” – connects the instruction from Psalm 34 with the admonition not to repay evil for evil but to repay evil with blessing
- “*desires to love life*” – to treasure one’s existence, whether on God’s earth or in eternity, for the enjoyment of His glory and goodness
  - To desire to love life means to view all of life as a gracious gift of God.
  - This includes all the highs that bless us and all the lows that teach us.
- “*see good days*” – to have hope that God will graciously care and watch over His people for their ultimate benefit
- “*Whoever desires to love life and see good days*” - those followers of Jesus who are learning to face challenging people and circumstances with patience and delight as they trust God’s truth and wisdom
  - James 1:2–4
- Complaining and criticizing are not beneficial for suffering followers of Jesus.

# Reflecting on the care and commitment of God to His people (3:10-12)

*“let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit;”*

- 1 Peter 3:9
- Fearing men and women, and stressing over tough circumstances, takes our eyes off of God.
- Losing sight of the Lord in this life, even in the face of evil that spews its fury at you, is a turning from God and His ways.
- The teaching of David in Psalm 34 is that when the people of God are experiencing affliction and suffering, the fear they should have, is not of man, but of God!
  - Psalm 34:7
  - Psalm 34:9
  - Psalm 34:11
- Complaining and criticizing are not beneficial for your soul and they reveal the focus of your heart.



# Reflecting on the care and commitment of God to His people (3:10-12)

*“let him turn away from evil and do good;”*

- God’s people experience the influence of God’s truth and God’s Spirit, encouraging them to make a conscious effort to resist the flesh.
- There are attitudes and reactions in your life from which you need to turn away.

*“let him seek peace and pursue it.”*

- God is pursuing you through His truth and His Spirit, and as a result He wants you to do all you can to go hard after peace.
  - Romans 14:19
  - Romans 15:1–2
- Apathy, resentment and retaliation do not accomplish the Lord’s purpose through our lives.

# Reflecting on the care and commitment of God to His people (3:10-12)

*“For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,”*

- Those displaying trust in God and the importance of His ways are walking in the favor of the Lord.
- Those whose focus is fixed on God can rest assured of God’s care and concern for them.
  - Psalm 23

*“and his ears are open to their prayer.”*

- No cry of the heart from God’s people is disregarded.
- God hears the needs and directs His people in the ways that are best.

*“But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”*

- God will eventually balance the scales of justice. (Cf. Psalm 73)
- God will do a much better job of dealing with those who do evil.

# Questions to Consider

- Do you desire to love life and see good days from a Christ-centered perspective?
- What areas of griping and complaining need to be transformed in your life?
- In what ways is God encouraging you to seek peace and pursue it?





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