

1 Peter – Then and Now
(Lesson 3 – Personal and Church Issues)

God’s Grace and Submission – 2:11 – 3:12 (WW)

I. Submit in the Church and to One Another (3:8-12).

- A. The relationship of the text to previous exhortations: “*Finally, all of you...*” Peter describes three provisions God has made – to distribute His grace: the government (2:13-15), the home (3:1-7), and now the Church (3:8-12). The emphasis in all of these is to maintain good order by learning how to cooperate with God and one another by obeying the truth by faith, love and hope.
- B. What we are to do: “*Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another.*” Emphasis is on “*one another,*” not uniformity in doctrine, calling, or values. These three are taken up in other sections of the Bible.
- C. How we are to do it: “*Be sympathetic*: involvement with others by care/concern. “*love as brothers*”: recognize one another as a person, give that person rightful place in your life, do what’s right by them sacrificially, and distinguish between their person and their actions. (We really can by surrendering to God. “*Be compassionate*”: the application of love. Often translated as “tender-hearted.” Be *humble*: the opposite of “haughty” and “high-minded,” To recognize equality.
- D. The warnings, Vs 9-11

Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech. He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it.

- 1. Emphasis on the threat and power of evil.
Evil is sin but also the result of sin, and it is choosing to act in harmony with the Kingdom of Darkness. Choosing to sin – to produce evil – and to cooperate with the Devil is not what Christianity, or God’s will is about.
 - 2. Emphasis on the danger in the use of our tongue.
A great deal of sin and evil is produced by speaking, (Read James 3:2-11). We are all vulnerable. (Read Proverbs 15:4; 18:21) Perhaps the criticizing of others and murmuring against God – head the list of the sins of the tongue.
 - 3. Emphasis on personal decisions and responsibility.
We can make a difference by avoiding/stopping evil and producing blessing. Surrendering to God makes such a life possible.
- E, The general principle: *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.*
1 Peter 3:12 Read Genesis 4:7.

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