

Called to Blessing

1 Peter 3:8–12

1 Peter 3:8–12 ⁸ Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; ⁹ not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. ¹⁰ For “He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit. ¹¹ Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it. ¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

I. Introduction

- A. The Christian community is not made up of perfect people. However, it is made up of people redeemed by the blood of Christ, called to reflect the same teachings and virtues modeled by Him. Those virtues marked Christ while He was on this earth and should be the reflection of His followers.
- B. These particular instructions from Peter conclude a string of commands often referred to as “the household code.”
- C. Verses 10–12 are a quote from Psalm 34:12–16.
 1. **Psalm 34:12–16** Who is the man who desires life, And loves many days, that he may see good? Keep your tongue from evil, And your lips from speaking deceit. Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their cry. The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, To cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.
 2. Psalm 34 is a Psalm of David. He wrote this particular psalm after he pretended to be insane to escape Achish, king of Gath (cf. 1 Sam. 21:10–15). The point of the verses in this particular psalm is that the Lord will in this life reward/bless those who live according to His righteous ethical standard.
- D. TRUTH: *We must have a unified love for one another which manifests itself by selfless, compassionate conduct.*

II. Main Outline

A. Five Characteristics of Christian Virtue

1. Be Unified

2. Be Compassionate / Sympathetic

3. Be Loving

4. Be Tenderhearted

5. Be Courteous / Humble

B. One Exhortation For Conduct Towards Unbelievers

1. Negatively: Do Not Revile

2. Positively: Bless

III. Conclusion

- A. To repeat Peter's point to the church: *We must have a unified love for one another which manifests itself by selfless, compassionate conduct.*
- B. These instructions are meant to govern the church and her interaction amongst her members as well as her gospel witness towards outsiders.
- C. Do this so that you will inherit the greatest blessing there is—Christ.