



LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL AS EXILES  
IN A WORLD OF OPPOSITION

# STAND FIRM



CALLED TO BLESSING  
1 PETER 3:8-12  
OCTOBER 30, 2022

 **MIDLOTHIAN**  
BIBLE CHURCH

<sup>12</sup> Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

<sup>13</sup> But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. 1 Peter 4:12–13 (ESV)



<sup>12</sup> By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, **exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God.** Stand firm in it.

1 Peter 5:12 (ESV)

<sup>12</sup> By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. **Stand firm in it.**

1 Peter 5:12 (ESV)

# Outline of 1 Peter

A.

B.

C.

# Outline of 1 Peter

A. Identity of God's People (1:1-2:10)

B.

C.

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1:3–5 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 Peter 2:9–10 (ESV)



# Outline of 1 Peter

A. Identity of God's People (1:1-2:10)

B.

C.

# Outline of 1 Peter

A. Identity of God's People (1:1-2:10)

B. Instruction for God's People (2:11-4:11)

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A. Identity of God's People (1:1-2:10)

B. Instruction for God's People (2:11-4:11)

C. Incentive for God's People (4:12-5:14)

<sup>13</sup> But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, **that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.**

1 Peter 4:13 (ESV)

<sup>10</sup> And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, **who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.**

1 Peter 5:10 (ESV)



# Outline of 1 Peter

A. Identity of God's People (1:1-2:10)

B. Instruction for God's People (2:11-4:11)

C. Incentive for God's People (4:12-5:14)

# Outline of 1 Peter

A. Identity of God's People (1:1-2:10)

**B. Instruction for God's People (2:11-4:11)**

C. Incentive for God's People (4:12-5:14)

<sup>11</sup> Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

<sup>12</sup> **Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable**, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

1 Peter 2:11–12 (ESV)

2:13 Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution

2:18 Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect

3:1 Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands...

3:7 Likewise, husbands, live with your wives...

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2:18 Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect

3:1 Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands...

3:7 Likewise, husbands, live with your wives...

3:8 Finally, all of you....

<sup>9</sup> ...bless, for to this you were called,  
that you may obtain a blessing.

1 Peter 3:9b (ESV)



Main Point:

God rewards (blesses) us in this life and in eternity when we bless others by action and word.

# 1 Peter 3:8-12 Called to Blessing

- A. Be Selfless in Your Community (3:8)
- B. Be Sanctified in Your Communication (3:9)
- C. Be Scriptural in Your Confidence (3:10-12)

# 1 Peter 3:8-12 Called to Blessing

- A. Be Selfless in Your Community (3:8)
- B. Be Sanctified in Your Communication (3:9)
- C. Be Scriptural in Your Confidence (3:10-12)

<sup>8</sup> Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.

1 Peter 3:8 (ESV)

# A. Be Selfless in Your Community (3:8)

1. Unity of Mind
2. Sympathy
3. Brotherly Love
4. Tender Heart
5. Humble Mind

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1 Peter 3:8 (ESV)

ὁμόφρων (*homophrōn*)

ὁμός, (homos)

one and the same, common, joint

φρήν (*phrēn*)

1. midriff

2. heart, as seat of the passions

3. mind, as seat of mental

faculties, perception, thought

<sup>1</sup> Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, <sup>2</sup> make my joy complete by **being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.**

Philippians 2:1–2 (NASB95)

Has it ever occurred to you that one hundred pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other? They are of one accord by being tuned, not to each other, but to another standard to which each one must individually bow. So one hundred worshipers [meeting] together, each one looking away to Christ, are in heart nearer to each other than they could possibly be, were they to become 'unity' conscious and turn their eyes away from God to strive for closer fellowship.     A. W. Tozer, The Pursuit of God

# Mission

To glorify God and make disciples by bringing people together through the Gospel and building up mature followers of Christ.

# Strategy

We endeavor to make disciples as we help people...

1. **Believe** the Gospel of Christ & the whole counsel of God's Word.
2. **Belong** to the Community of Christ.
3. **Build Up** one another's faith in Christ.
4. **Be Strong** in the mission of Christ.

*In essentials, unity;  
in non-essentials, liberty;  
in all things, charity.*

Augustine of Hippo

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1 Peter 3:8 (ESV)

συμπαθής (*sympathēs*)

***sympathetic, understanding***

William Arndt et al., A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 958.

sym•pa•thet•ic \,sim-pə-'the-tik\ adjective

- 1: existing or operating through an affinity, interdependence, or mutual association
- 2: a: appropriate to one's mood, inclinations, or disposition  
b: marked by kindly or pleased appreciation
- 3: given to, marked by, or arising from sympathy, compassion, friendliness, and sensitivity to others' emotions
- 4: favorably inclined: APPROVING <not sympathetic to the idea>

# 1 Corinthians 12:21-26

21 The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” 22 On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,

<sup>23</sup> and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty,

<sup>24</sup> which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it,



<sup>25</sup> that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.

<sup>26</sup> If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

1 Corinthians 12:21–26 (ESV)



Charles Haddon Spurgeon  
1834-1892  
The “Prince of Preachers”

It is not easy to be effectively sympathetic. Some cannot manifest tenderness even when they have a mind to do so. I once knew a minister who had never suffered pain or illness in his life. I was unwell in his house, and he most kindly tried to sympathize with me. He did it almost as wonderfully as an elephant picks up a pin. It was a marvel that he could attempt a thing so altogether out of his line.

Many of the trials that are experienced by Christians are sent as an education in the art of sympathy. Be thankful for that which enables you to be a minister of consolation to your fellow men, but feel that in this matter you are a learner yet, and will frequently meet with sorrows and with joys into which you cannot enter.

“Sympathy is two  
hearts tugging at  
one load”



Charles Parkhurst  
1842-1933

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1 Peter 3:8 (ESV)



<sup>14</sup> And Onias spoke, saying, “This is a man who **loves the family** of Israel and prays much for the people and the holy city—Jeremiah, the prophet of God.”

2 Maccabees 15:14 (NRSV)

## Xi tightens his Mao-like control of China

### What happened

Chinese President Xi Jinping secured an unprecedented third term as head of the ruling Communist Party this week, cementing his status as the most dominant figure in Chinese politics since Mao Zedong. Xi's ascension to a third five-year term upended a two-term limit that was written into the party constitution in 1982 to prevent a return to the one-man rule of the Mao era; Xi had that limit removed in 2018. He further tightened his grip on the world's most populous nation by overhauling the seven-member Politburo Standing Committee, forcing out market-friendly moderates and promoting allies and protégés—though, conspicuously, none young and experienced enough to be marked as a potential successor. In a speech to the National Congress, Xi, 69, touted China's growing "international influence," saying its "power to shape the world has significantly increased." Without naming the U.S., he warned of "dangerous storms ahead" and "worst-case scenarios," and drew applause for saying China "will never promise to renounce the use of force" to achieve "reunification" with Taiwan.

News of Xi's leadership realignment sent international markets into turmoil, with Chinese stocks tumbling to their lowest levels since the 2008 financial crisis and the yuan's value hitting a 14-year low. The sell-off reflected worries over Xi's tightened control and the expected continuation of the economically punishing zero-Covid strategy and expanded government control over the private sector. "All the rules have been broken," said Cai Xia, a former professor at the Central Party School in Beijing. Now "China's future is entirely driven by Xi's will."

### What the editorials said

"Xi's coronation portends a hard era for China and the world," said *The Washington Post*. He has quashed dissent, subjected citizens to "systematic surveillance," subjugated Tibet and Hong Kong, and waged "a genocidal campaign" against Muslim Uighurs. He's doubled down on Beijing's belligerent claim to Taiwan, cozied up to Russian autocrat Vladimir Putin, and "stonewalled global inquiries into the coronavirus' origins." Under his dictatorial control, China's "lodestars" will remain "national aggrandizement and dictatorship, not global cooperation and human rights."

### It wasn't all bad

■ Kendell Cummings was hunting with three friends from his wrestling team when he heard a peculiar crash in the forest ahead. The Northwest College sophomore quickly discovered a grizzly bear pummeling his teammate, Brady Lowry. Cummings leaped in and grabbed the grizzly, allowing Lowry to escape, then played dead to stop the bear's attack—a tactic endorsed by the National Park Service. "If we all didn't have these friendships and each other," Cummings said, "we would not have come off that mountain alive."



Xi's speech, as seen at a department store in Beijing

### What the columnists said

Xi's total remake of the party's power structure "astonished" veteran China watchers, said Chris Buckley, Keith Bradsher, and Chang Che in *The New York Times*. His purging of rivals and elevation of loyalists underscores "his ambition of accelerating China's rise as a military and technological superpower" while maintaining "unyielding" party control. For China, "investing so much power in Xi is a profound gamble." The history books are full of autocrats who've been "blinded by hubris and overreach" after surrounding themselves with yes-men.

We've already seen how Xi's top-down decision-making has weakened China's economy, said Francis Fukuyama in *The Atlantic*. His state investment in real estate has led to massive housing complexes that have been "dynamited" after sitting empty for lack of buyers, and his relentless zero-Covid lockdowns have become a "prolonged debacle." Xi also quashed the tech entrepreneurialism that "flourished" under his predecessors, said Greg Ip in *The Wall Street Journal*. To keep the economy under his control, he's pursued a campaign of "kneecapping" successful firms and targeting their leaders with "harassment and prosecution."

The most damaging fallout "may come in foreign policy," said Hal Brands in *Bloomberg*. China's shift toward a "more confrontational posture" is bound to accelerate—and if Xi decides to use force against Taiwan, "don't expect his advisers to convince him otherwise." China is now utterly controlled by a single, "globally ambitious strongman" who's dismantling curbs on his power "as he doubles down" on an aggressive nationalism. It's a familiar tale, and "one that is unlikely to end well for China or the rest of us."

Italian doctors successfully removed a brain tumor from a patient who was not only fully conscious but also played his saxophone throughout the nine-hour procedure. The 35-year-old, identified as C.Z., played the sax during the surgery so that the 10-member team could map various sections of his brain,



C.Z., keeping up the music

preserving the areas that are responsible for the ability to play music. Doctors listened to live renditions of the Italian national anthem as well as the soundtrack from 1970's *Love Story* through the procedure. "We are operating on the sense of self, their personality," said Dr. Christian Brogna. "The patient will tell you what is important in his life, and it is your job to protect his wishes."

■ London-based physicist Jessica Wade has created more than 1,600 Wikipedia entries for women scientists who have been overlooked despite important contributions to their fields. Her influence on the site has been praised by Jimmy Wales, the founder of Wikipedia—and in 2019 she was honored by the late Queen Elizabeth II. Wade's goals go beyond encouraging more girls and women to enter the scientific community. "We don't only need to increase the number of girls choosing science," Wade says, "we need to increase the proportion of women who stay in science."

Illustration by Howard McWilliam  
Cover photos from Getty, Alamy, Getty

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THE WEEK November 4, 2022

“The writer is not thinking of brotherly love in general, but of the special love which should knit believers in Christ together.”

J. N. D. Kelly, *The Epistles of Peter and of Jude*,  
*Black's New Testament Commentary* (London: Continuum, 1969), 136.

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1 Peter 3:8 (ESV)

Εὐσπλαγχνος (eusplanchnos)

**pert. to having tender feelings for  
someone, *tenderhearted,*  
*compassionate***

William Arndt et al., A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 413.



“People in our society tend to be generously compassionate toward victims of fires, floods, and other disasters, but the virtue of compassion was understood differently in the first century, which used it in mentioning kindness shown to family members. Its appearance in Peter’s Christian virtue list implies that the Christian community should understand itself as a type of family.”

Karen H. Jobes, 1 Peter, Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2005), 216.

<sup>32</sup> Be kind to one another,  
tenderhearted, forgiving one another,  
as God in Christ forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32 (ESV)

Weather

Forecast: Mostly sunny and pleasant. High 70s; low 50s. Light breeze. Partly cloudy with rain or showers in the afternoon. High 60s; low 40s. Windy. Partly cloudy with rain or showers in the afternoon. High 60s; low 40s. Windy. Partly cloudy with rain or showers in the afternoon. High 60s; low 40s. Windy.

# The Washington Post

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Reagan's Art Policy	A1
Assailant's Sports Policy	A1
Reagan's Music Policy	A1
Assailant's Theater Policy	A1
Reagan's Film Policy	A1
Assailant's Television Policy	A1
Reagan's Radio Policy	A1
Assailant's Newspaper Policy	A1
Reagan's Magazine Policy	A1
Assailant's Book Policy	A1
Reagan's Comic Policy	A1
Assailant's Game Policy	A1
Reagan's Hobby Policy	A1
Assailant's Pet Policy	A1
Reagan's Car Policy	A1
Assailant's Plane Policy	A1
Reagan's Boat Policy	A1
Assailant's Horse Policy	A1
Reagan's Golf Policy	A1
Assailant's Tennis Policy	A1
Reagan's Basketball Policy	A1
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Reagan's Baseball Policy	A1
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Reagan's Cricket Policy	A1
Assailant's Badminton Policy	A1
Reagan's Table Tennis Policy	A1
Assailant's Chess Policy	A1
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Assailant's Kendo Policy	A1

## Reagan Wounded by Assailant's Bullet; Prognosis Is 'Excellent'; 3 Others Shot

By David H. Johnson

President Reagan survived an assassination attempt Saturday night in a crowded hotel lobby in Washington, D.C., after being struck by a bullet fired from a handgun. The president was wounded in the chest, but his condition is "excellent," according to doctors. Three other people were also shot during the attack.

The attack occurred shortly after 9 p.m. as the president and his wife, Nancy, were leaving the Washington Hilton Hotel. The president was walking with a woman, and the woman was walking with a man. The man was walking with a woman, and the woman was walking with a man.

The man who shot the president was identified as John W. Hinckley Jr., 24, of Washington, D.C. He was shot in the chest and is in critical condition.

The president's condition is "excellent," according to doctors. He is expected to make a full recovery. The three other people who were shot are also expected to make a full recovery.



Secret Service agents escort President Reagan to the hospital after he was shot in the chest by a gunman in a Washington, D.C., hotel last night.

The president's good fortune seemed to come at the last moment, according to John W. Hinckley Jr., the 24-year-old man who shot the president. Hinckley was a member of the "Squeaky" Team, a group of young people who were trying to assassinate the president.

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Members of the Justice Department said the assassin had been acting alone.

Police said the man who shot the president was a 24-year-old man named John W. Hinckley Jr. He was shot in the chest and is in critical condition.

A spokesman for the Justice Department said the assassin had been acting alone. He was shot in the chest and is in critical condition.

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### Recently Under Psychiatric Care Suspected Gunman: An Aimless Drifter

By David H. Johnson and Paul Thompson

“When we took him to the operating room, he looked up at me and said, ‘I hope you are all Republicans’, and I said, “Today we are all Republicans, Mr. President.”



Dr. Joseph Giordano,  
a liberal Democrat

# Tucson Firefighter Refused To Respond To Giffords Shooting Due To Political Differences

DOUG MATACONIS · FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2011 · 8 COMMENTS

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📌 Pin

✉ Email

➦ Share

As **John Cole** says, **this is just weird:**

A Tucson firefighter refused to respond to the Jan. 8 shooting rampage that wounded Representative Gabrielle Giffords because of political differences with his crew, delaying his unit's arrival at the scene, according to internal department records.

# A. Be Selfless in Your Community (3:8)

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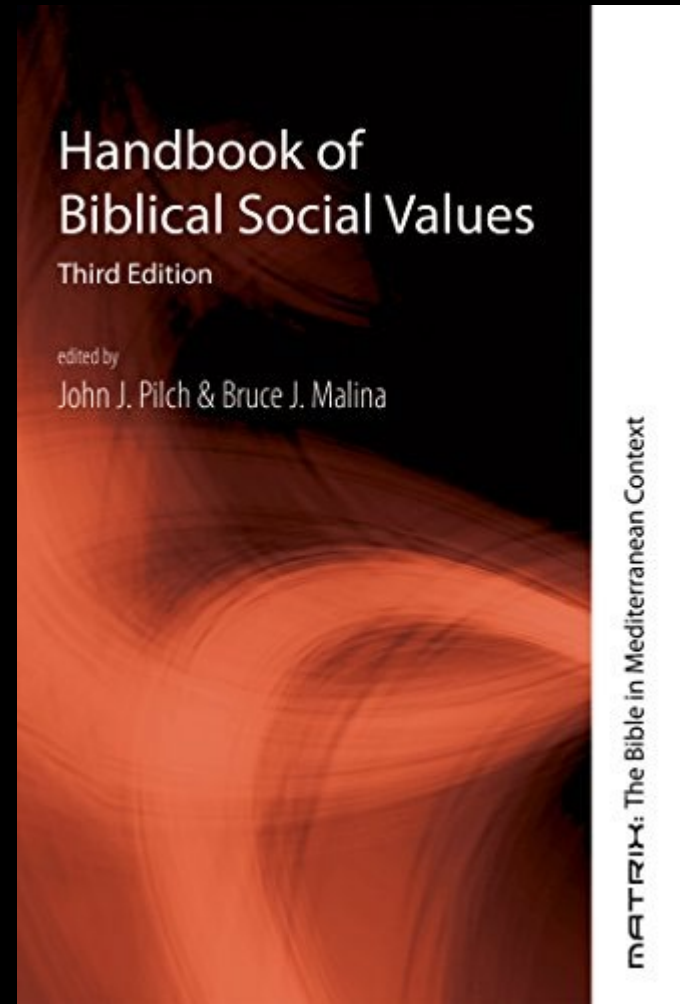
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1 Peter 3:8 (ESV)



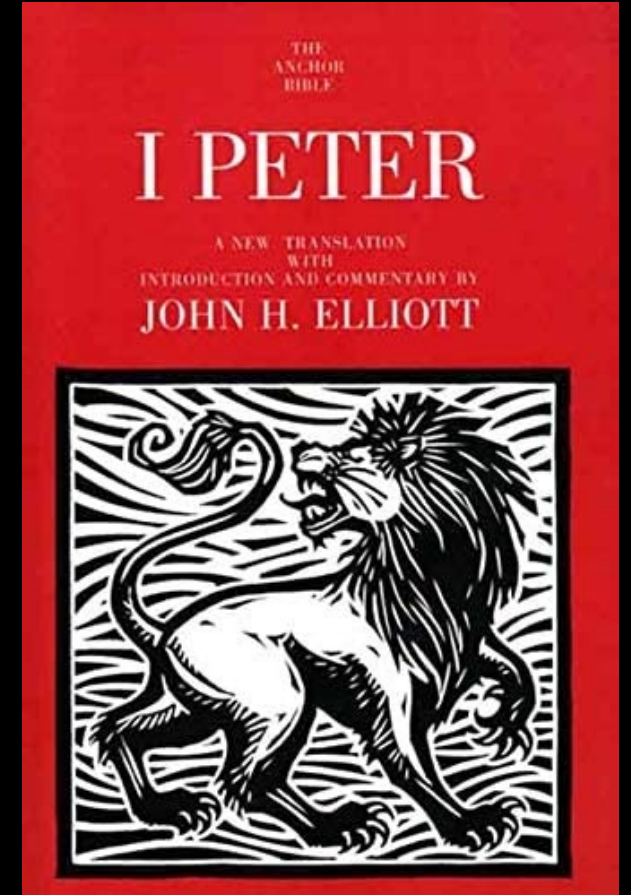
Humility is a value that directs persons to stay within their inherited social status. The strategies for being humble include not presuming on others and avoiding even the appearance of lording it over another.



Humble persons do not threaten or challenge another's rights, nor do they claim more for themselves than has been duly allotted them in life. They even stay a step below or behind their rightful status (e.g., the “unworthy” John, Mark 1:7).

Thus humility is a socially  
acknowledged claim to  
neutrality in the competition of  
life.

“In the highly competitive and stratified world of Greco-Roman antiquity, only those of degraded social status were ‘humble,’ and humility was regarded as a sign of weakness and shame, an inability to defend one’s honor. Thus the high value placed on humility by Israelites and Christians is remarkable.”



Bill of Rights

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Conventions of a number of the States having, at the time of their adopting the  
ers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added: And a  
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and Amendment of the Constitution, there  
Article of the Constitution, there  
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<sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

<sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Philippians 2:3–4 (ESV)

<sup>5</sup> Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

1 Peter 5:5 (ESV)

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**“US BoTH”**

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- C. Be Scriptural in Your Confidence (3:10-12)

# 1 Peter 3:8-12 Called to Blessing

- A. Be Selfless in Your Community (3:8)
- B. Be Sanctified in Your Communication (3:9)
- C. Be Scriptural in Your Confidence (3:10-12)

<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.

1 Peter 3:9 (ESV)

## B. Be Sanctified in Your Communication (3:9)

1. Stop Insulting Back
2. Seek Inheritance Blessings

## B. Be Sanctified in Your Communication (3:9)

1. Shouldn't Injure Back
2. Seek Inheritance Blessings

<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.

1 Peter 3:9 (ESV)



<sup>15</sup> See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.

1 Thessalonians 5:15 (ESV)

27 “But I say to you who hear, Love  
your enemies, do good to those who  
hate you,

Luke 6:27 (ESV)

<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.

1 Peter 3:9 (ESV)

# λοιδορία (loidoria)

**speech that is highly insulting, *abuse,*  
*reproach, reviling***

William Arndt et al., A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 602.

<sup>14</sup> So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, manage their households, and give **the adversary** no occasion **for slander**.

1 Timothy 5:14 (ESV)

<sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

<sup>22</sup> He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.

<sup>23</sup> When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

1 Peter 2:21–23 (ESV)

## B. Be Sanctified in Your Communication (3:9)

1. Shouldn't Injure Back

2. Seek Inheritance Blessings

## B. Be Sanctified in Your Communication (3:9)

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1 Peter 3:9 (ESV)

# εὐλογέω (*eulogeō*)

- ① to say someth. commendatory, speak well of, praise, extol
- ② to ask for bestowal of special favor, esp. of calling down God's gracious power, bless
- ③ to bestow a favor, provide with benefits

<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.**

1 Peter 3:9 (ESV)

<sup>26</sup> God, having raised up his servant,  
sent him to you first, **to bless you by  
turning every one of you from your  
wickedness.”**

Acts 3:26 (ESV)

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<sup>21</sup> His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’

Matthew 25:21 (ESV)

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<sup>8</sup> Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup> So whether we are at home or away, **we make it our aim to please him.**

<sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, **so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.**

2 Corinthians 5:8–10 (ESV)



<sup>8</sup> for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise **for the present life and also for the life to come.**

1 Timothy 4:8 (ESV)

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<sup>10</sup> For “Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; <sup>11</sup> let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. <sup>12</sup> For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

1 Peter 3:10–12 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup> Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. <sup>14</sup> Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. <sup>15</sup> The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry. <sup>16</sup> The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth.

Psalms 34:13–16 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup> “Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors, <sup>9</sup> remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, <sup>10</sup> declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,’ Isaiah 46:8–10 (ESV)

<sup>10</sup> “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup> so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, **but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.**    Isaiah 55:10–11 (ESV)

<sup>17</sup> Sanctify them in the truth; **your word is truth.**

John 17:17 (ESV)



<sup>10</sup> For “Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; <sup>11</sup> let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. <sup>12</sup> For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

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1 Peter 3:10–12 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup> For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him. You have done foolishly in this, for from now on you will have wars.”

2 Chronicles 16:9 (ESV)

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Main Point:

God rewards (blesses) us in this life and in eternity when we bless others by action and word.

<sup>10</sup> For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do.

Hebrews 6:10 (ESV)