

Called: Called to Love Our Enemies

(1 Peter 3:8-16)

Introduction

We live in a “get even” world. If someone wrongs you, get even. But in reality we don’t just want even we want to get ahead.

Where does that stem from? It is the trait of justice that has been polluted.

Jesus challenged his disciple to be different. He challenged them to not only love your friend (those that are good-willed toward you), but also to love your enemies (those that are NOT good-willed toward you).

Peter applies that principle to the lives of his readers.

Contextualize 1 Peter 3

The recipients of Peter’s letter were suffering due to their faith. They were persecuted by culture and by their own families. They were displaced with little or no support system. Peter wrote to encourage them to do more than survive in a difficult situation, but to thrive in a very difficult situation.

- 1) Call to holy living (1 Peter 1:14-15).
- 2) Means for holy living (1 Peter 1:22-23)
- 3) Challenge to right living (1 Peter 2:11-12)
- 4) Demonstrating holiness (1 Peter 2:13-14, 18, 3:1, 7 & 8)

What does it mean to be “called?”

Called means to experience a divine moving on one’s life that results in a sense of purpose, urgency and responsibility that transcends the temporal to the supernatural.

I. Keys To Loving Your Enemies (v. 8-9)

A) A Cooperative Attitude (implies cooperation when there are differences).

- B) A Sympathetic Attitude** (suffering with another by entering into and sharing the feelings of others rather than by having compassion on another person from a distance.)
- C) A Loving Attitude** (demonstrating that special love that unites brethren in Christ).
- D) A Compassionate Attitude** (deep affection for another)
- E) A Humble Attitude** (willing to put someone else's interests and needs before his or her own).

II. Basis for Loving Our Enemies

- A) Desire for Good Days (v. 10-11)**
- B) The Daily Presence of God (v. 12a)**
- C) The Attentive Ear of God (v. 12b)**

III. Committed To Loving Our Enemies

- A) Suffering for good (v. 13-14)**
- B) Honoring the Lord (v. 15)**
- C) Answering critics (v. 16)**

Conclusion.