



### Discussion Questions Set #1

“Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.” (1 Peter 3:8)

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. (1 Peter 3:15)

“Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any

tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.” (Philippians 2:1-2)

“Rejoice with those who rejoice [and] mourn with those who mourn” (Romans 12:15)

1. As mentioned in sermon, verse 8 forms a literary structure known as a chiasm in the Greek, in which the unpaired term in the center of the verse is emphasized for effect. Unsurprisingly, love of one another is emphasized by Peter. Discuss why you think love of one another is so central in Peter’s message?
2. Discuss how the following paired terms complement each other and give clearer shape to Peter’s teaching: 1. like-mindedness (unity) and humility (friendliness of mind) and 2. sympathy and compassion.
3. Thinking of these five constructs, how might keeping them at the centre of our practice as followers of Jesus better permit us to live out the instructions of the previous 19 verses (material dealing with submission to authorities, slaves and masters, husbands and wives)?
4. Why is setting apart Christ as Lord (revering Jesus) so important to a proper application of this passage?

### Discussion Questions Set #2

“Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil 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 their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it. 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 3:9-12)

“The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace” (Numbers 5:25-26).

“But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. (Luke 8:27-28)

1. Though the idea of blessing instead of retaliating is likely not that surprising a biblical practice, why do you think Christians often struggle to actually put this into practice? Why do you believe that a vengeful attitude might exist in the recesses of the Christian heart?
2. How does a proper understanding of God’s grace help us to effectively apply the principle of blessing those who curse us?
3. Is it surprising that a failure to bless instead of curse sets God’s face against us? Why do you think Peter is so emphatic that our blessing from God is somehow tied to our blessing of others? How might this reality function in the life of a follower of Jesus?

### Discussion Questions Set #3

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.” (1 Peter 3:15-16)

“With unveiled faces reflect the Lord’s glory [and] are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.” (2 Corinthians 3:18)

1. It was mentioned in sermon that this teaching is often taught in a way that removes it from the context of experienced persecution. How does interpreting this verse in light of the context of persecution change or sharpen your application of the verse?
2. Why is our attitude (with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience) so important as we seek to respond to hostile questions levelled against us?
3. Comment on what this text teaching regarding our witness to Jesus by word and our witness to Jesus by lifestyle. How does our lifestyle impact our witness to Jesus? Discuss the importance of ongoing lifestyle transformation as it applies to our witness to Jesus and our evangelism.