

1 Peter 3:8-12 Bless: Do Not Repay, Do Good!

Main Point of 1 Peter 3:8-12

Christians are inwardly transformed through New Birth & Christ's Resurrection, & CALLED by God to bless their enemies in order to receive God's Eternal Inheritance (blessing).

Five Inward, Godly Graces For All Christians (v 8)

1. How do these Christian affections relate to each other?
2. Be Unified in Mind: A Mindset, an Attitude
3. Be Sympathetic, Empathetic: Feel WITH others
 - a. Expresses a relationship of tenderness to others
4. Be Brotherly/Loving: A Family Affection
5. Be Kindhearted, Tender
 - a. Literally, "Good Bowels"; feeling FOR others
 - b. Expresses the GOOD you want to come to others
6. Be Humble, Lowly
 - a. A lowly mindset (same root word of unified mind)
 - b. How are you unified in the church without humility
 - c. Counting others more significant than yourself
7. Before Peter tells us how to obey in our conduct, he deals with the heart = This is not our nature
 - a. How do we obey the command to feel?
 - b. Do you have immediate control over these inward characteristics? NO... they're unplanned emotions
 - c. Christians Have A New Nature To Express Them:
 - a. Repent – I am not like this (3:10-11)
 - b. Turn to Christ – I want to be this (2:4, 24)
 - c. Rest & Grow in the Newness – (2:2-3)
 - d. Pray to Have It – (3:12)
 - e. Decide to BE a Blessing: I Will Bless (3:9)
8. This Happens within us before Verse 9 can happen

Outward Command Reflecting The Inner Heart (v 9a & 9b)

1. (Negative) Do NOT Repay Evil, Do NOT Revile (v 9a)
2. (Positive) BUT Bless Your Adversary! (v 9b)
3. This Command, next to *Rejoice Always* is one of the Hardest Commands to Follow in the Bible
4. When maliciousness or mean-spirited words come your way, Do not revile or repay evil for evil
5. Christians are to be grace-filled, forgiving, bless bestowing community – we are to love our enemy

Basis of Blessing Your Enemy: God Called You To It (v 9c)

1. What is the "THIS" in verse 9c referring to?
2. Were you called to inherit a blessing?
3. Were you called to bless the adversary and opponent?
4. Why It Matters: Are your blessings to those who revile your Christian Faith a condition to receive the inherited blessing?
5. What some say: Bless those who Revile you because you have inherited the blessing
 - a. This is true statement (1 Peter 5:10)
 - b. I do not think this Calling is referring to future blessing, but to bless those who revile – Why?
6. 1 Peter 2:20-23 is a Parallel to this Text
 - See 2:21 – For to this you have been called
 - Called to What? Endure Suffering for Doing Good
 - Evil Reviling comes your way... what do you do?
 - v. 23 – Christ did not Revile
 - You are Called to Endure the Reviling & to Bless

Motive to Bless Your Opponent: You Will Be Blessed (v 9d)

1. Basis for Inheriting the Blessing: Bless, Do not Revile
2. Why You Exist: Your Calling To Bless Everyone
3. This is not Meritorious, Not *Earning* Inherited Blessing
 - a. 1 Peter 1:3-4 – Mercy → New Birth → Hope to An Inheritance; You do not EARN Inheritances
4. Blessing Your Enemy is a Fruit of New Birth (also v 8)

OT Theological Support For Blessing Our Enemy (v 10-12)

1. The Life God Blesses now and forever (Inheritance) versus the Life God turns Against now and forever
2. A Christian, Future Outlook: Enjoy ETERNAL Life and See Good Days, Have the Eyes of the Lord on them, & have Your Prayers Heard
3. SIX Commands of Righteous Obedient Living
 - a. Fruit of Christ's Death – (1 Peter 1:18-19)
4. Warning: If you Do NOT: God is Against You
 - a. The Tongue Deceives, Reviles, Repays (3:9)
 - b. Peace Makers – not paying evil for evil
5. Honor the Precious Blood of Christ
 - a. Christ died to rescue us from Hell
 - b. Christ died for us not to squander our life