

Title: **The Church: To Love, To Bless**
Text: **1 Peter 3:8-12**
Date: **August 31, 2025**

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Big Idea

As Christians, we are called to love one another and bless others, even as we are hated by them. We can only do so as we remember our Lord Jesus!

1. How to L_____ Life (as the Church): Growing I_____ (v.8)

(cf. Romans 12:9-13, 15-16)

- Live in Unity & H_____ (Our M_____)
(cf. John 17:20-21, Romans 15:5-7, 1 Cor 1:10, 12:12ff, Eph 4:1-6)
- Live with S_____ & Compassion (Our H_____ Posture)
(cf. Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 3:12, Matthew 9:36, Luke 7:13)
- Live with F_____ I Love (Our C_____)
(cf. John 16:27, 1 John 3:11-16, 1 Corinthians 13)

2. How to R_____ to H_____: Growing O_____ (vv.9-11)

(cf. Romans 12:14, 17-21)

- Don't R_____ (v.9)
(cf. 1 Peter 2:23, 1 Thessalonians 5:15, Romans 12:17)
- B_____ instead of Curse (vv.9-10)
(cf. 1 Peter 2:22, 2:1; Luke 6:27-36, 45; Psalm 34:12-16)

- Pursue P_____ (v.11)
(cf. Hebrews 12:14, Matthew 5:9)

3. How? R_____ the Lord: Growing U_____ (vv.9, 12)

- Remember our C_____ - to suffer like Christ (v.9b)
(cf. 1 Peter 2:21)
- Remember our H_____ - inheritance in Christ (v.9b)
(cf. 1 Peter 1:3-4, Luke 6:43-45)
- Remember our J_____ - the Lord sees & knows (v.12)
(cf. 1 Peter 2:23b, Romans 12:19)



Reflection Questions

- Are you growing as a Christian? In what ways have you seen growth (or perhaps atrophy) in the different directions this past year?
- How have you seen our church community live out these qualities (in v.8)? Which of the 5 attributes do you struggle the most with when it comes to our church community?
- How do you typically respond to, "haters"? Think of the last time someone mistreated you - how did you respond? Why?
- How does remembering the Lord Jesus help you in the face of difficulties with others? Is there a current conflict or situation where you need to apply this morning's passage?
- **Parent Corner:** How are you modeling out what it means to love and bless others to your child(ren)? What are some ways you can teach and pray for your child to grow in these areas?

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Our Mission & Values

Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.

FAITH: The Way Back to God | We are redeemed to enjoy intimate presses our church *upwards* in love

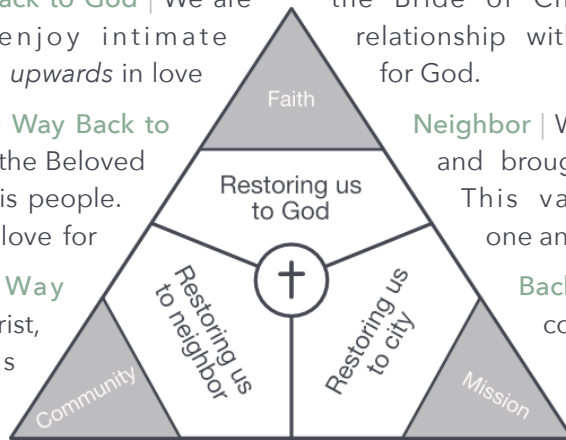
the Bride of Christ, created and relationship with him. This value for God.

COMMUNITY: The Way Back to Christ, adopted in the Beloved relationship with his people. church *inwards* in love for

Neighbor | We are the Family of and brought into covenantal This value presses our one another.

MISSION: The Way the Embassy of Christ, Savior to be his value presses our in love for the

Back to City | We are commissioned by the ambassadors. This church *outwards* unbelieving.



Your Next Steps

When approaching the Christian faith and life, it can be confusing to know where to even begin. Come find us at the Next Steps Table after the service—it would be our joy to help you along in the journey! And if you're a visitor, we have a special gift bag for you. Don't miss it!



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Welcome to Mercy Hill Church.
We are so glad you've joined us today!

Announcement Spotlight

All Church Hangout - Next Sunday!

Meaningful community is hard to find in Silicon Valley, even in the church. Our congregation is spread out all over the city. But there is one day of every week when we all commit to gather together and worship our God: Sunday. It seems strategic to take this pre-existing momentum and work with it in an attempt to develop deeper community within our body. Therefore, on most first Sundays throughout the year we will invite the church to enjoy picnic-style afternoons together immediately following the service.

The Plan: After service, bring or buy your lunch and join us at the tables out back for a picnic-style afternoon (we may shift inside depending on weather). We'll also open the gym for people to play in!

If you have any questions, please reach out to us at info@mercyhillchurch.org.

Youth Baptism Class - After Service Today!

Covenant Membership Class - September 21st!

Join a Home Group!

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Or find it online at mercyhillchurch.org/communications-hub.