

# STAND

Pastor Bill Bowers | July 29, 2018

## *Can't We All Just Get Along?*

**Scripture:** 1 Peter 3:8-11

*"Finally, all of you should be of one mind."* 1 Peter 3:8a (NLT)

### **Six attitudes that will help us get along:**

1. **Sympathy** (James 1:19; Romans 15:2)  
*"Sympathize with each other..."* (v. 8a)
2. **Loyalty** (Romans 12:10; 1 Corinthians 13:7; Romans 15:7)  
*"Love each other as brothers and sisters..."* (v. 8a)
3. **Compassion** (Ephesians 4:29; 1 John 3:18)  
*"Be tenderhearted,..."* (v. 8b)
4. **Humility** (Proverbs 13:10; Proverbs 28:13)  
*"...keep a humble attitude."* (v. 8b)
5. **Mercy** (Colossians 3:13; 1 Cor. 13:5)  
*"Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing."* (v. 9a)
6. **Maturity** (Proverbs 12:18)  
*"...keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies."*  
(v. 10b)

## HOMEGROUP & PERSONAL STUDY QUESTIONS

**Teaching Text:** 1 Peter 3:8-11

1. Peter's instruction (verse 8) begins, *"All of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tender-hearted, and keep a humble attitude."* What do you think he wants us to understand about being of "one mind."? How often do you find yourself of one mind with other believers?
2. Continuing our thoughts about verse 8, if you are not "in one mind" with believers how often do find yourself struggling with a tender heart and/or humble attitude? When in disagreement with the positions of others, do you find it difficult to feel love for them or "like" them? Explain your response.
3. Pastor Bill gave us six attitudes that can help us to "live in harmony with each other" and diffuse conflict. Those attitudes follow: sympathy, loyalty, compassion, humility, mercy, and maturity. Are these attitudes that you keep in your mind and heart when you are in situations that are confrontational and loaded with conflict? Which attitudes do you struggle with most? Can you share why you might struggle with these attitudes?
4. Peter states very strongly that believers should not repay evil for evil. He continues; *"Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you...pay them back with blessing."* Think back to your last conflict with a person. How did you respond? Was Peter's direction your action? What did you get right? What did you get wrong? How can you better respond in the way of Peter's teaching?
5. Much of Peter's writing the past three installments of our series has been about submission of our rights to others, even others who may be in the wrong or practice injustice. What do you feel about submitting your rights to unjust people? Knowing your relationships, workplace, personal and relational conflicts, how do you think Jesus would counsel you in handling conflicts within those circles?
6. How is this series affecting your thoughts and emotions? How is this series affecting your theology? Please be as detailed as you are able. Give specifics.