

UNITY IN THE CHURCH
1 PETER 3:8-12 / 9-25-19 / WED

I. WHAT ARE OUR DUTIES TO OTHER CHRISTIANS?

A. Peter uses five imperative statements or commands in verse 8 listing a Christian's duty to other Christians.

1. First be "**like-minded**" or united.
 - a. Jesus prayed for the unity among Christians and the church—John 17:20-21.
 - b. The Jerusalem church is a good example of unity—Acts 4:32.
2. Second, be "**sympathetic**"—Romans 12:15.
3. Third, "**love one another**".
 - a. Jesus commands this—John 13:35.
 - b. Love is evidence that we know the Lord—1 John 4:20.
4. Fourth, be "**compassionate**"—Matt. 9:35-36.
5. Fifth, be "**humble**"—Luke 14:11 and Romans 12:3.

B. Peter uses one more imperative in verse 9 to list how Christians should treat non-Christians, although, this same command is appropriate in relating to other Christians too.

1. First Peter says we are to return good for evil—3:9b.

1 Peter 3:9

Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing...

Jesus says the same thing in Matthew 5:38-44.

2. Peter lists the motive for returning good for evil in 3:9b.

1 Peter 3:9

...because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

II. AN ILLUSTRATION FROM ONE OF DAVID'S PSALMS.

- A. King David echoes these same Christian duties in Psalms 34: 12-16 which Peter quotes in 3:10-11.
- B. King David also says such good behavior is evidence of one's salvation which Peter quotes in 3:12.