

I Peter 3:8-12

Consistent Character in an Unpredictable World

- > What virtues mentioned in verse 8 are to characterize our lives? Being of one mind (with one another), being compassionate, showing love, being tenderhearted, being humble.
- > What particular behavior mentioned in verse 9 are we called to put into action? Not repaying evil with evil, but rather showing blessing to those around us.
- > What actions result in God's blessing according to verses 10-12? Refraining from evil speech and deceitfulness, and seeking good and pursuing peace with those around us.

Application

Our previous lessons have shown the importance of godly behavior toward the people around us, even toward those who we feel may not "deserve" our love and respect. Our passage today goes a step further and says we should even bless those who do us wrong! Consider these reasons why we should bless rather than curse those who do us wrong:

- It is consistent with the character of God, which is the standard for our actions (Matt. 5:43-47).
- Our lives (now and future) are characterized by God's blessing. In turn, God's call on our lives is to bless others (I Peter 3:9).
- To use our speech for both blessing and cursing reveals an inconsistent heart (James 3:8-12).

We must learn to treat people right in all circumstances. We cannot allow our character to be affected by the behavior of those around us. Showing love, especially when we do not get the same in return, demonstrates that our character is genuine. Genuine character pleases God, and it is that kind of character that results in His blessing!

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