

EXILE // PERSUASIVELY EXILED // 1 PETER 3:8-12

Persuaded to Have the Right Attitude (v 8)

"Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous"

As Peter sums up this section, he gives us five practical ways in which we can be persuaded to exemplify a godly attitude:

1. being of one mind. Unity, literally "thinking the same."
2. having compassion. This is sympathy or "sharing the same feeling."
3. love as brothers. We, as heirs of God's grace, share something in common with each other. Therefore our love for one another should be a reflection of that.
4. be tenderhearted. This is referring to a deep-seated emotional feeling towards others (εὐσπλαγχνος - eusplagchnos - visceral organs).
5. be courteous. This implies humility.

Persuaded to Give the Right Reaction (v 9)

"not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing."

- Not returning evil for evil literally means "stop returning evil for evil." It is within our nature to retaliate when someone has mistreated us.
- "reviling for reviling" has to do with speech. This is railing somebody in an abusive manner, or really insulting others.
- The right approach is to, on the contrary, bless. Instead of throwing out insults, we need to praise others, speak well of them, and encourage them.
- We know that we were called to this (to forgive, to not retaliate, to not insult) because Christ has forgiven us.

Persuaded to Live by the Right Standard (v 10-11)

"For 'He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit. Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it. let him refrain his tongue from evil."

- **James 3:6** tells of the evil that the tongue can accomplish if not restrained.
- We then see how our lips need to be restrained from speaking deceit (δόλος - dolos - bait, falsehood, dishonesty).
- Peter then moves on to four imperatives found in **Psalms 34:14**
 1. turn away from evil. A strong rejection of what is sinful.
 2. do good. Excellence in quality.
 3. seek peace. This takes an intentional and intense action.
 4. pursue peace. This is once again talking about aggressive action. It means to run after in a hostile manner (διώκω - dioko).

Persuaded to Have the Right Motives (v 12)

"For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil"

- What Peter is referring to when he says "the eyes of the Lord" is that God is paying careful and close attention to those who are His own (the righteous).
- The contrast is that His face (or His judgment - this is an OT expression used again by Peter) is against those who do evil.
- We are in one of two positions: Either we experience God's watchful and caring eye over our life, or we experience His wrath and judgment when we reject Him and do evil.
- The motivation is to live up to His standard, refraining from evil, accepting His grace, so that we can avoid His judgment. This is pretty clear!