

BLESSED IN THE GOOD LIFE

Sunday, January 18, 2026 -- 1 PETER series -- msg 24 -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

1 PETER 3:8-12

English Standard Version (ESV)

8 Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. **9** Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. **10** For

“Whoever desires to love life

and see good days,

let him keep his tongue from evil

and his lips from speaking deceit;

11 *let him turn away from evil and do good;*

let him seek peace and pursue it.

12 *For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,*

and his ears are open to their prayer.

But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

REVIEW & CONTEXT:

Peter’s overarching theme is HOLY LIVING amid suffering and exile.

Ch. 1:1–2:12: Christians are a chosen people, set apart to declare God’s excellencies even while living as *sojourners and exiles* in a hostile culture.

Ch. 2:13-3:12: Peter now applies holiness to social relationships:

- 1 Peter 2:13–17 Submission to government
- 1 Peter 2:18–25 Submission in employment
- 1 Peter 3:1–7 Submission in marriage
- **1 Peter 3:8–12** Submission within the body of Christ

CENTRAL THEME:

The **good life** God promises is not found in **self-assertion** or **retaliation**, but in Christ-shaped submission that blesses others—even when wronged.

God’s blessing rests on those who pursue righteousness relationally, verbally, and inwardly.

NOTICE: vs 8 *“Finally, all of you,”* → *speaking to the church.*

God’s Word always defaults to HIS PEOPLE as the basis for our social relationships.

His family of redeemed and transformed children have the greatest common denominator.

The **saving blood of Christ** supersedes all other bonds and identities.

‘The body of Christ’ or ‘the church’ is God’s spiritual and eternal family.

Think about it... your biological family is incredibly important, but it is not eternal.

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I. The MINDSET of the RIGHTEOUS. vs 8

1. Unity of the mind.

- Unity doesn't mean uniformity, but it does choosing agreement wherever possible.
- A settled commitment to Christ, truth and gospel priorities.
- **We submit our preferences** to the needs and preferences of others.

PHILIPPIANS 1:27

Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,

2. Sympathy — ‘sharing the same feeling’.

- συμπαθεῖς or *sympatheis* = literally means to suffer with
- We are to be emotionally attentive to the burdens and pains of others.
- We are not to be detached or dismissive of others.
- **We submit ourselves** to carefully consider the pain of others.

3. Brotherly Love —

- A family-type loyalty rooted in our shared new birth.
- Love that is durable not fickle or selective.
- Love that survives when relationships are strained.
- **We submit ourselves** to stay engaged when withdrawal feels easier.

4. A Tender Heart —

- Compassion that remains soft instead of hardened.
- Opposite of a calloused heart that cannot be moved.

5. A Humble Mind—

- The most essential, all-encompassing virtue of the Christian life.
- Nothing describes the mind of Christ more than humility.

MATTHEW 11:29 — Jesus speaking...

Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

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 But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."*

II. The REFLEX of the FLESH vs the WAY OF BLESSING. vs 9

1. The Natural Reflex of our flesh is RETRIBUTION. vs 9a

- Evil for Evil, Insult for Insult.
- Retaliation feels right but it never produces righteousness.
- This does **not** bring blessing. It never delivers what is desired.

2. The Gospel Way: Blessing your enemies. vs 9b

- More than restraint from harm, do good to those who hurt you.
- To bless is to entrust justice to God while choosing love.

LUKE 23:34 From the cross...

(see 1 Peter 2:23)

And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.

3. The Law of the Harvest: What you sow, you will reap.

- Sowing a blessing will reap a blessing.
- **Not** prosperity theology but moral and spiritual causality.

JAMES 1:25

*But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets **but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing**.*

III. The Pathway to the GOOD LIFE . vs 10-11

The good life is not characterized by comforts but righteousness.

THREE ACTIVE PURSUITS of the Good Life:

- 1) Guarded Speech. *"Let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit."*
- 2) Moral Turns. *"Let him turn away from evil and do good."*
- 3) Relational Peace. *"Let him seek peace and pursue it."*

IV. You Can Count on GOD'S JUSTICE . vs 12

1) God is ATTENTIVE to the righteous (he sees, he hears).

*"For the **eyes** of the Lord are on the righteous, and his **ears** are open to their prayer."*

2) God is AGAINST the wicked (there is no escape).

*"But the **face** of the Lord is against those who do evil."*