

BLESSED HOPE

BHBC



BIBLE CHURCH

**Learning of Christ, Loving in Christ, Leaning on Christ, Living for Christ, Leading to Christ
Based on the Word of God**

1 PETER

LIVING FOR THE
LORD IN BAD TIMES



THE WEEKDAY CHRISTIAN

1PETER 3:8-12



- **THE CONTEXT:** The basic theme of 1 Peter is the proper response of a believer in Christ in times of suffering and difficulties.
- **THE PARADOX:** All of us will face various kinds of difficulties and problems in life, however, the problem is NOT the difficulties we face BUT how we respond to difficult situations.
- **THE PRINCIPLE:** The believer in Christ has the anticipation of an eternal inheritance that gives strength, encouragement and hope even in the most difficult times. In light of this, God wants the believer **to be holy** in all his conduct.

- **THE PRACTICALITY:** To be holy in all conduct **includes:**
 - Conducting yourself throughout the time of your stay here in fear (i.e., the fear of the Lord)
 - Loving one another fervently with a pure heart
 - Desiring the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.
 - Offering up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ, due to the fact that we are living stones, being built up by the Living Stone as a spiritual house, a holy priesthood.
 - Abstaining from fleshly lusts with conduct that is honorable among the Gentiles (unsaved).
 - Living as law-abiding citizens in the nation, regardless of that nation's political climate.
 - Respecting the authority of those over you in the workplace.
 - Being responsible, respectful, godly and faithful spouses

- **Perspective:** A true professing believer in Christ is more than a Sunday Christian, he/she is a weekday Christian regardless of the circumstances of life.
- **Lesson:** Because the believer is called to inherit a blessing, he/she is to have a heartfelt desire to live a consistent maturing godly life.
- The apostle Peter in 1Peter 3:8-12 will show us what a consistent godly Christian life looks like in two major areas: The Church Life and the Community Life.

THE CHURCH LIFE: BELIEVERS ARE TO LIVE IN RESPECT FOR ONE ANOTHER . 1Peter 3:8-9



- **RESPECT #1: Believers are to be on one mind.**
 - This means that we have the same goal, purpose, mission (e.g., we are on the same page)
 - We may differ on **HOW** something is to be done, but we all agree on **WHAT** must be done.
 - **Note:** Our mission is to make disciples
 - Win the lost to Christ
 - Lead the saved to maturity

*Be of one Mind and one Faith, that you may Conquer
your Enemies and Lead Long and Happy Lives.*

- Genghis Khan

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- This does NOT mean that we compromise biblical truth for the sake of unity.
- **Illustration:** Because of some serious differences in doctrine, lifestyle, and purpose believers cannot affiliate with many churches, cults, or religious groups.
- **Application:** The believer is not to be the source of strife, contention, and divisions within the fellowship over non-doctrinal issues.

- **RESPECT #2: Believers are to have compassion for one another.**

- Believers in the Lord are to show heart-felt **sympathy** for the needs of other believers with the **intention** of meeting that need.
- **The Application:** Believers are not to have an attitude of apathy, indifference, hard-heartedness, or mean-spiritedness toward one another.

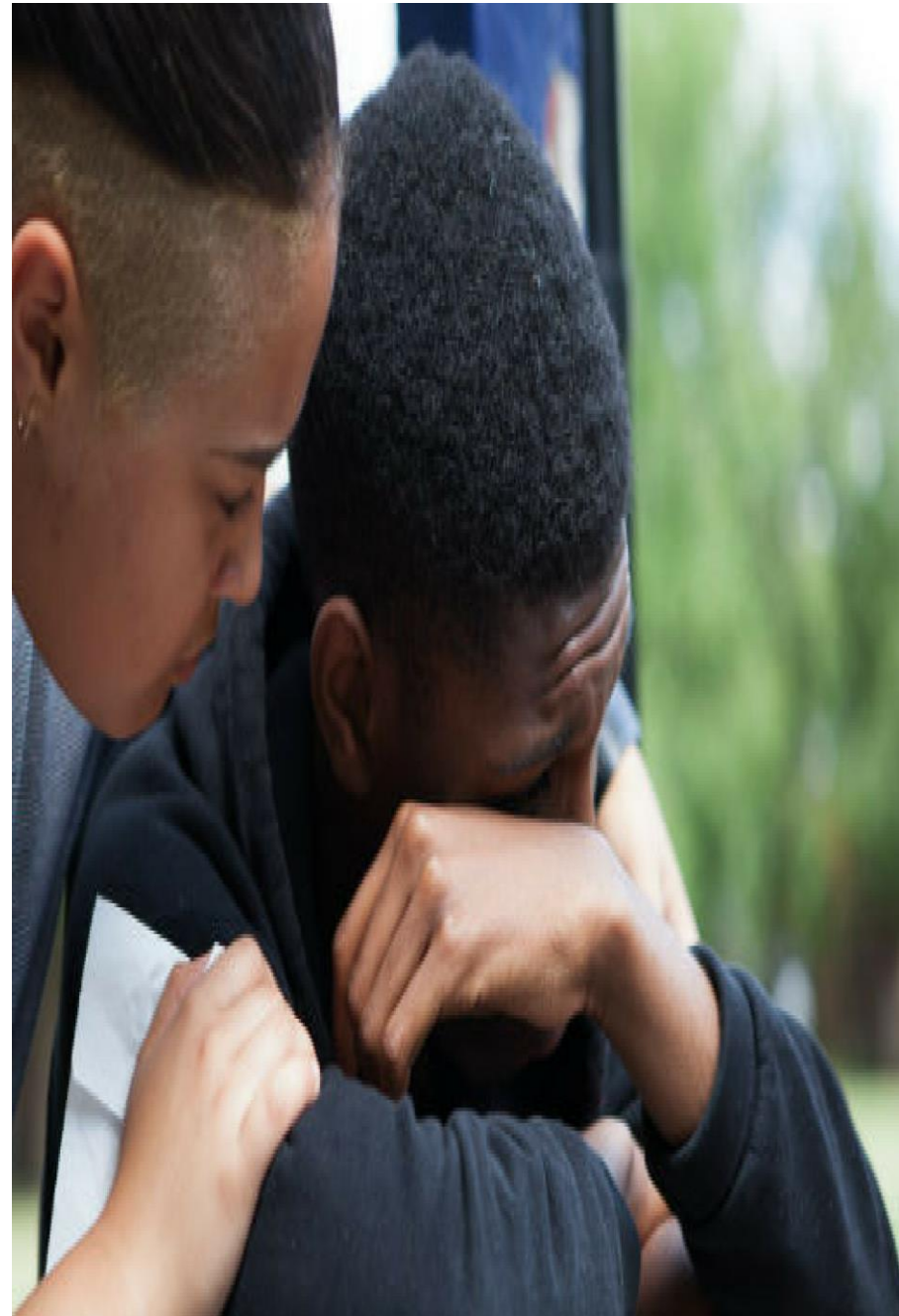


- **RESPECT #3: Believers are to love (one another) as brothers (and sisters).**
 - **Note:** How many times has the Scriptures instructed us to love one another?
 - Believers are to treat other believers, regardless of race, nationality, culture, gender, social status, as members with them in the family of God!!
 - **The Application:** Believers are not to harbor attitudes of hatred, hostility, or animosity against another believer in Christ.

LOVE IN ACTION

*I was hungry and you gave Me food;
I was thirsty and you gave Me drink;
I was a stranger and you took Me in;
I was naked and you clothed Me;
I was sick and you visited Me;
I was in prison and you came to Me*

- **RESPECT #4: Believers are to be tenderhearted (to one another).**
 - Believers are to have an attitude of affectionate and sensitive concerns for other believers in their needs and times of distress and affliction, with the **intention** of giving comfort, help, and encouragement.
 - **The Application:** The growing mature believer does not allow our busy insensitive 21st century culture rob him of concern for others within the church.



- **RESPECT #5: Believers are to be courteous (to one another)**
 - The KJV word “courteous” comes from the Greek word which means “humbleminded.”
 - To be humbleminded involves much more than acting like a lady or a gentlemen--it involves putting others ahead of ourselves (I.e., not fighting to get your own way all the time or make others look bad so that you can make yourselves look good).
 - **The Application:** Believers are not to harbor an attitude of arrogance, competitiveness, destructive criticism, and ridicule in order to make themselves out shine others.



Proud People	Humble People
<i>Compare themselves with others and feel worthy of respect and honor</i>	<i>Compare themselves with the holiness of God and feel a desperate need for His mercy</i>
<i>Have a hard time saying, "I was wrong; will you please forgive me?"</i>	<i>Are quick to admit their failure and to seek forgiveness when necessary.</i>
<i>Become bitter and resentful when they are wronged; they try to hold others hostage with their unforgiveness (which is actually impossible); they carry grudges and keep a record of wrongs.</i>	<i>Give thanks in all things; they are quick to forgive because they realize how much God has forgiven them; they let go of grudges and are set free from the poison of unforgiveness and bitterness.</i>
<i>Are especially prone to criticize those in positions of authority – their pastor, their boss, their parents – and they talk to others about the faults they see.</i>	<i>Reverence, encourage, and lift up those that God has placed in positions of authority, and they talk to God in intercession, rather than gossiping about the faults they see in others.</i>
<i>Claim rights and have a demanding spirit</i>	<i>Yield their rights and have a meek spirit</i>
<i>Desire to be served – they want life to revolve around them and their own needs.</i>	<i>Are motivated to serve others and to be sure others' needs are met before their own.</i>
<i>Like to talk about themselves and rarely show an interest in other people; rarely ask personal questions of others that would show that they are genuinely interested in their life.</i>	<i>Make it a point to show a genuine interest in other people by asking them questions about their life and their interests. Genuinely listen when others are talking.</i>

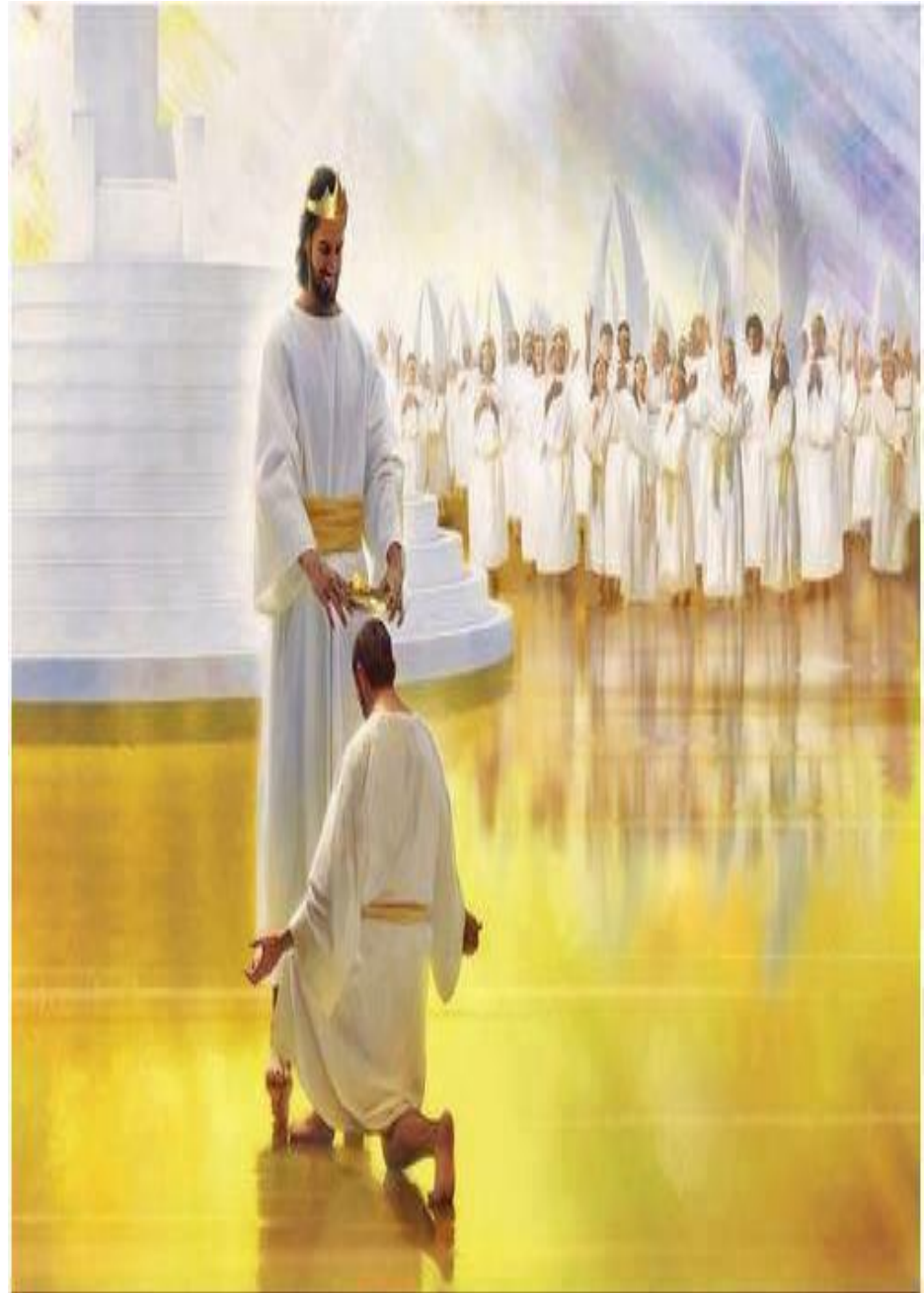
- **RESPECT #6: Believers are not to be vindictive (of one another).**
 - **The Command:** “... not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing.”
 - **The Principle:** Believers are not to retaliate against one another but to bless those who offend them or speak evil of them (e.g., this goes against the flesh, and the way our culture and society even thinks)



- **The Example:** Jesus is our role model of non-vindictiveness.
 - Jesus taught us to "bless them that curse you"(Matt.5:44)
 - Jesus also taught: "Love your enemies, do good to them who hate you, bless them that curse you, and pray for them who despitefully use you" (Luke 6:27-28).
 - On the cross Jesus prayed: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34).



- **The Reason for the Command against retaliation:** The believer was **called** to a blessing, thus everything in their life (their thoughts, decisions, actions and reaction) is to **reflect** that blessing that they will receive in Christ.
- **The Application:** Believers are not to seek revenge against one another (e.g., it is easy for church members to “punish” the church if they feel that they are “done wrong”)



**THE COMMUNITY LIFE: BELIEVERS ARE TO
LIVE IN RESPECT BEFORE OUTSIDERS
1PETER 3:10-12**

Let your light shine!

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven." Matthew 5:16



- **THE RESOLVE: He who would love life and see good days ...**
 - This temporary earthly life has its joys and its sorrows, its good times and its bad times (e.g., because sin has entered this world).
 - Most people want a life where their needs are met, where they feel safe and secure, where they feel loved and appreciated, and where they can find a little peace and happiness from time to time.
 - However, we can make life a burden of hopelessness and despair based on the immoral decisions we make, the way we mistreat others, the way we react to various circumstances, and engaging in actions which cause trouble, sorrow, and heartache for ourselves and others.



- **RECOMMENDATIONS:**
Stay out of trouble!!
 - **Quotation from Psalm 34:12-16**
 - **Recommendation #1:**
Let him refrain his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit (e.g., many situations in our lives turn ugly because we lie, deceive, mislead, and say the wrong thing to the wrong people at the wrong time, in the wrong place, in the wrong spirit, for the wrong reasons!!)



- **Recommendation #2:**
Let him turn away from evil and do good (e.g., Many times we bring misery to our lives by engaging in behavior that is immoral, unethical, unsafe, and illegal, and by being with the wrong people in the wrong place at the wrong time).



- **Recommendation #3:**
Let him seek peace and pursue it (e.g., many times we bring misery to our lives because we like to pick a fight or an argument for no good reason).



– **Special Note:** Some suggestions in seeking peace:

- Do not offend people needlessly (this is just a selfish desire to do your own thing at the expense of other people's feelings).
- Learn to back down on non essential issues--do not seek to have your own way all the time or win the argument (even if you are right).
- Learn the difference between a honest debate and an selfish argument (arguments are a selfish desire to be right at any cost).
- Learn to speak little about yourself and more about the good in others (i.e., learn to stop bragging about your achievements and appreciate the work of others).
- Do not dwell on the faults of others
- Learn to mind your own business and do not interfere in the affairs of others.
- Do not allow the insults, contempt, and hatred of others rob you of the joy of the Lord.
- Do not retaliate--learn to forgive those who offend you, even if they do not apologize!!!!

- **THE REASONS FOR THESE RECOMMENDATIONS:**
 - The **eyes** of the LORD are on the righteous and His **ears** are open to their prayers.
 - The **face** of the LORD is against those who do evil.



A CHALLENGE FOR YOU

- Make up your mind to be a weekday Christian!

PSALMS 34:15-17

15 The **eyes of the LORD** are upon the **righteous**, and *his ears* are open unto **their cry**.

16 The face of the LORD is **against them that do evil**, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

17 The **righteous cry**, and the LORD **heareth**, and **delivereth them out of all their troubles**.

RECEIVE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR
SAVIOUR TODAY!!



- 1. Acknowledge** that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, **died** on the cross for your sin, and that He **arose** again from the dead on the third day.
- 2. Admit** that you are a sinner, **guilty** of sin and **responsible** and **accountable** to a holy God for your sin, and that you are under His just condemnation and eternal punishment for your sin.
- 3. Accept** the Lord Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour by **receiving** His provision of salvation through your faith in Him alone.