



October 18, 2020
"A Hymn of Endurance"
1 Peter 3:8-22
Pastor Sam Evans

There are many incredible ideas that we could look at in **1 Peter 3:8-22**. This passage of Scripture can be divided into 3 sections. Peter starts with the idea of suffering. For this Sermon Response, we will focus just on the first section, **vv 8-12**. In **v. 10**, Peter quotes **Psalm 34** and uses the language "love life". In a commentary by Wayne Grudem he says "To *love life* does not mean that one has a trouble-free life...it rather suggests an enjoyment of life and contentment in the life God has given, no matter what the outward circumstances." Doesn't this grab our attention especially in the season we are in? There are many things we can be discontent about, and it can be easy to focus on the negative. However, in **vv. 8-9**, Peter gives us a list of virtues to pursue, and even lets us know we will receive a blessing if we live this way. The contentment, or "loving life" is the blessing. It is a by-product of living out these virtues. We can prepare for seasons of suffering by pursuing these now!

So, what are **we** striving for? Peter lists several things but let us go through the first 5 from **v. 8**.

- 1. We strive to have unity of mind.** The word harmonious would also be a good translation. We don't have to think the same. But we need to find ways to live together focusing not only on what we do have in common with our brothers and sisters in Christ, but also learning to see the beauty in the differences.
- 2. We strive for sympathy.** One commentator said it this way, "sympathy is not only having feelings of care, but having feelings enough that we take the care into action."
- 3. We strive for brotherly love.** The word Peter uses here is one he made up. He was very intentional about putting the words "brother" and "to love" together to create a word that points us to the idea that our fellow Christians are our *family*, and this family needs to have a love for one another. Imagine how much more content we would be if we were confident that we had family surrounding us through thick and thin.
- 4.** The next word is an interesting one. The word for "tender heart" literally translated means "good bowels." The idea here is having positive, **caring emotion** that runs deep. It is a **gut level emotion**. We are to not just *think nice thoughts* of those around us, but to feel *it* and *care deeply*.
- 5. "Have a humble mind"** (ESV) or "**humble**" (NIV) is another combination word where Peter puts together the words humble and mind. Humility is not simply an action; it is something we honestly believe. It is not thinking less of ourselves; it is thinking about ourselves accurately, understanding who we are before a holy God, and knowing that we are fully loved and saved by Him.

When you look at this list, how do you see contentment or "loving life" being a by-product of these virtues? How could they help you in seasons of suffering?

Which of these virtues do you find to be a challenge and what are tangible ways you could grow in it?

Who in your world seems to experience this blessing of contentment even in difficult times?

What do you see in their life that makes this blessing evident?

Do you notice any of these virtues in their life?

From Pastor Sam:

Victory is found in blessing others. It is typically easy to bless those who bless us. The challenge of v.9 is to withhold repaying others when they mistreat us.

Recall a time when you were mistreated. How did you feel? What was your reaction?

Would you do anything differently today?

Victory is found in defending the Gospel. Relate a time when you had the opportunity to defend the faith.

What were the circumstances? What was the outcome?

Victory is found in the Cross of Christ. He suffered and is now in glory ~ giving us both the model and the hope.

When you are suffering, is your focus on the circumstances or on the coming victory?

What reasons can you give for each? How does thinking about our final victory help us now?