

QUESTIONS FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION

1. In 1 Peter 3:8-12, Peter calls Christians to respond in uncommon, peculiar, ways. As Christians, how does Peter call us to respond to one another? When a church is torn apart by division, what are some of the main dynamics involved? How are the characteristics of verse 8, the opposite of the dynamics that split a church?
2. Peter calls us to be like minded and brotherly. Both of these words are a call to unity. Can you think of other passages where believers are called to unity? See also Romans 12:9-12, Ephesians 4:1-6, Philippians 2:1-8. What characteristics do these passages share in common in their call to unity?
3. In this passage, we are also called to exercise compassion toward one another. How would you define compassion? How would you describe someone who is compassionless? Can you give specific examples of acts of compassion you have seen in the last year? Read Mark 1:41, 6:34, 8:2 and Luke 7:13. How does our Lord show compassion in these passages? Compassion is not a special gift possessed by a few Christians, it is to be present in all of us who follow Christ. What are three practical ways we can develop a more compassionate heart?
4. To return blessing for curse is truly Christ-like. See Luke 23:34 and 1 Peter 2:21-23. The unbelieving see this as counter intuitive at best and utterly foolish at worst. Why as believers are we to be different in the face of adversity? Read Romans 12:14-21. Can you draw at least five principles of how we are to respond to those who attack us?
5. In 1 Peter 3:9 and 12, what does God say He will do if we return blessing for curse for His name sake? To do this we must walk by faith in His power and grace. Is there relationship in your life that is in conflict? Based on these passages, what specific ways would God have you change your thoughts and behavior toward this person?

LIVING HOPE: Studies in I Peter "Peculiar People" (I Peter 3:8-12)

I. Peculiar People

II. Marks of Peculiarity

1. In a world of unrest, God's people seek _____ .

1. Instead of focusing on immediate differences, God's people focus on _____ .

2. Instead of focusing on protecting personal interests, God's people focus on _____ .

3. Instead of focusing on self, God's people _____ .

2. In a world of hatred, God's people seek to _____ .

1. The principle of responsible _____ .

2. The principle of reliant _____ .

3. The principle of revolutionary _____ .