

We are invested in all types of relationships: Family – Church – Work – Social Media – 2.5k

How we interact with all our relationships must be a reflection of who we are in Christ
Everywhere we look, relationships seem to be unraveling...like a poorly made sweater

Marriages are strained - Friendships are shallow - Families are divided.

Even inside the church, people can sit in the same room, sing the same songs...barely know

- Culture teaches, "Protect yourself first - Win argument - Get even - Speak your truth."
But the gospel calls believers to something radically different
- 1 Peter 3:8-12 - Speaking to Christians...living under pressure, hostility, and suffering.
- Instead of telling them to fight back with anger or withdraw in fear
- Peter calls them to live with compassion, humility, unity, and blessing

In a harsh world, Christians are called to display a different spirit

How should our relationships be impacted because we have been transformed by Jesus?

Passage shows us the gospel is not only meant to save our souls—Shape our relationships

As we come to this text today, we are confronted with a challenging truth:

If Christ has transformed our hearts, it should be visible in the way we live with others

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."

First became a Christian – Joined a small group – Old wooden house – Came over painted
If you've been in the Christian community for years...have forgotten how abnormal this is

The way Christians respond relationally makes the invisible love of God visible

Big Idea – Redeemed relationships are built from kindness and integrity

Christians should reflect Christ in how they treat one another – Respond differently to evil
Recognize God blesses righteous living – Know God sees both the faithful and the wicked

In a hostile world, redeemed people must display Christlike relationships | Three ways to do

1. **God requires us to be: Selfless with one another (8)**

⁸ Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.

Verse 8 gives five qualities that should characterize believers:

Unity of mind – Sympathy – Brotherly love – A tender heart – A humble mind

Urging church to become marked by compassion instead of division, pride, or selfishness

In a culture filled with conflict; believers were to stand out by the way they treat others

I was watching a street evangelist at a gay pride event and I was so angry...explain why

- He didn't go there to win souls...he went there to pick a fight – He was loud and rude

I do not agree with the LGBTQ+ | To show up to their events to push them from Christ

The way to win the battle for souls is not more volume but greater love and tempered truth

I'm not saying a Christian should never go to a gay pride event to protolyze

You can do the right thing the wrong way & therefore be wrong | Look Good Today...once

The Christian is called to be selfless: Love Lavishly – Forgive freely – Consider Carefully

- **Love Lavishly** - Loving others deeply and sincerely, even when it costs you something
"By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers." — 1 John 3:16

- **Forgive Freely** - Release bitterness and extends grace just as Christ has forgiven us

"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." Eph.4:32

- **Considers Carefully** - How actions affect others & seeks spiritual good above preference
"Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor." — 1 Corinthians 10:24

Conflict = House Fire | Better tool to put out a house fire? Flamethrower or a Firehose?

Christians should resolve conflict with, truth, forgiveness, commitment to peace in Christ

Takeaway - Be Committed to each other | Directionally – Compassionately – Humbly

- **Directionally** = All facing the same direction for the same purpose
 - **Unity of mind** = Shared spiritual direction...Mission / Commands | **Orchestra**
 - **Compassionately** = Christ-like willingness to feel another's suffering
 - **Sympathy** = Sharing in one another's joys and sufferings...**Behind every bad is a story**
 - **Brotherly love** = Genuine family affection | Brothers and Sisters with a Father
 - **Tender heart** = Compassion, not hardness | **Accidents vs. Intention**
 - **Humbly** = Recognizing one's dependence on God and valuing others even when its hard
 - **Humble Mind** = Putting others before self | **Christians outdo putting each other first**
- Underline those five qualities, write them down, give yourself an evaluation**

2. **God requires us to be: Serene through difficulty (9)**

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

We live in a world built on retaliation: insults you...back | Hurst you...pay | **Posts against you**

Culture says, "Win the argument. Get even. Protect your pride." | Gospel is different

Redeemed people reflect Christ by responding to evil with blessing instead of retaliation

- Peter is writing to Christians who were misunderstood, mistreated, and persecuted
- instead of telling them fight back with bitterness...tells them to respond with blessing
Corrie Ten Boom – 1947 – Munich – Talking on Forgiveness – Ravensbrück – Guard – Sister
Became believer – Extended hand – Will you forgive me | Felt like she couldn't do it
"Jesus, help me! I can lift my hand. I can do that much. You supply the feeling."

Wooden armed she raised her hand – Warmth - "I forgive you, brother! With all my heart."

"bless, for to this you were called," he isn't asking us to summon up fake, happy emotions.

Asking for act of obedience, trusting God will supply grace...what flesh screams impossible

Harboring unforgiveness is like taking poison hoping the other person will get sick

Takeaway – Be Patient through injustice | Three ways to be patient through injustice

- **Forsake vengeance** - Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling
 - Peter begins with a command - The Christian is not to live by revenge.
The word "reviling" refers to verbal attacks—insults, slander, mocking, cutting words
Natural flesh: "I'll get even." | "I'll say something worse." | "I'll make them feel what I felt."

When Christ was mocked, He did not retaliate | Christ was insulted, He did not threaten
Even on the cross, He prayed for His enemies - GOSPEL

Christian maturity is often revealed most clearly in how we respond when we are wounded

- **Remain gracious** - but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called,
 - Peter doesn't merely say "avoid revenge." - He says replace revenge with blessing.
To bless someone means to speak and act for their good - This is supernatural Christianity.
Anyone can love kind people - Anyone can speak well of friends.

But only the Spirit of God enables believers to bless those who wound them

Not the approval of sin...How could you bless the person who has wounded you deeply?

- **Anticipate blessing** - that you may obtain a blessing | **Closest get to prosperity gospel**
 - The Future Reward (Eternal Inheritance) – Stored up riches...lay at Christ's feet
 - The Present Reality (Peace and Grace) – Supernatural peace & Closer intimacy

Gospel changes how we respond to people bc the gospel first changed how God responded to us

3. God requires us to be: Sincere in our faith (10-12)

¹⁰For “Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; ¹¹let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it.

¹²For 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.” Peter quotes Psalm 34

He is reminding believers that even in hardship, there is joy, blessing, and peace...Lord

Redeemed relationships are connected to a redeemed life before God

Truth you may not want to hear...if there is unrighteousness in your life...affect relationships

- A lot of Christians try and get by on the least amount of righteousness they can
- Direct correlation to wherever you lack righteousness and problems in relationships

Liar = Untrustworthy | Lust = Intimacy | Anger = Fear | Gossip = Insecurity | Pride = Pain

If you are struggling in relationships you are struggling with righteousness

Streaming subscriptions = Basic / Standard / Premium...more you put in...more benefits

Takeaway = Be Sold out for righteousness | Three ways...sold out for righteousness

a. **Intentionally truthful** - ¹⁰For “Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; - Redeemed Person Guards Their Speech

- Peter is saying person who truly enjoys life God blesses must learn control their words
 - “Keep his tongue from evil” - Refusing sinful speech gossip, slander, or harshness
 - “Lips from speaking deceit” means living truthfully and honestly w/o manipulation

If you lie of manipulate people through words...sure sign of sin and relationship destruction

b. **Actively peaceful** - ¹¹let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace & pursue it

Four commands: Turn away from evil - Do good - Seek peace - Pursue peace

- **Turn away from evil** — Reject sinful attitudes, words, and behaviors
- **Do good** — Actively pursue what honors God and benefits
- **Seek peace** — Value reconciliation and unity in relationships
- **Pursue peace** — Chase after peace with persistence and effort

Peace does not usually happen accidentally – Been in a fight and accidentally make up

c. **Wholeheartedly prayerful** - ¹²For 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.”

God is attentive to His people, believers are called to live in continual, wholehearted prayer

Three truths stand out:

- God sees the righteous (“His eyes are on them”) | Proud Parent – Crayons
- God hears the righteous (“His ears are open to their prayer”) | First Wed. Fast
- God opposes persistent evil (“His face is against those who do evil”) | Justice

God is near to believers who walk in obedience, but He stands against sinful rebellion

How should our relationships be impacted because we have been transformed by Jesus?

Redeemed relationships are built from kindness and integrity

1. **God requires us to be: Selfless with one another (8)**
2. **God requires us to be: Serene through difficulty (9)**
3. **God requires us to be: Sincere in our faith (10-12)**