

# Living the Good Life

## The Life and Letters of Peter

### Bible Text(s) Used

1 Peter 3:8–12<sup>i</sup>

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### Introduction & Historical Context

Pastor Mike began by setting the stage for Peter's letter. Written around 64 AD, this letter came after Emperor Nero blamed Christians for the great fire of Rome. This marked the beginning of official government persecution against the church. Believers lost their homes, were scattered, and faced hostility from all sides. In this difficult moment, Peter reminded them how to live faithfully as Christians.

**Reflection Question:** How does remembering the struggles of the early church encourage you in your own faith?

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### The Call to Right Attitudes

Peter urges believers to cultivate Christlike attitudes: to be like-minded, sympathetic, loving, compassionate, and humble. Pastor Mike compared this to an airplane's attitude indicator: your attitude determines your direction in life. Like-mindedness means unity, not uniformity. Sympathy means entering into another's pain, just as Jesus sympathized with our weaknesses. Brotherly love is a radical commitment to one another, stronger than blood ties. Compassion requires tenderness, and humility means keeping a childlike opinion of yourself, no matter what your achievements.

**Reflection Question:** Which of these attitudes—unity, sympathy, love, compassion, or humility—do you feel God is calling you to grow in right now?

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## The Right Response to Hostility

Peter goes on to instruct believers not to repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but to repay evil with blessing. This response is not natural, it is divine. Pastor Mike reminded us that out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks, so we must guard what we take into our souls. Instead of filling our minds with constant negativity, we should fill them with God's Word, which equips us to respond with grace.

**Reflection Question:** When have you been tempted to repay insult with insult, and how might you instead choose to bless in that moment?

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## David's Example of Mercy

As an example, Pastor Mike pointed to David's encounters with King Saul. Twice David could have taken Saul's life, but he chose instead to spare him and speak blessing. This mercy melted Saul's heart temporarily and demonstrated David's trust in God's justice. In the same way, choosing forgiveness over retaliation frees us and reflects God's heart.

**Reflection Question:** How can David's example help you trust God's justice instead of seeking revenge?

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## Living the Good Life

The world defines the 'good life' as wealth, success, and pleasure. But Peter says the good life is found in right attitudes and right responses—living humbly, blessing others, and trusting God. This is how we experience peace and joy, regardless of circumstances.

**Reflection Question:** What does the 'good life' look like for you considering Peter's teaching?

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<sup>18</sup> Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. <sup>9</sup> 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.

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<sup>10</sup> For “Whoever desires to love life  
and see good days,  
let him keep his tongue from evil  
and his lips from speaking deceit;  
<sup>11</sup> let him turn away from evil and do good;  
let him seek peace and pursue it.  
<sup>12</sup> 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.”