



**Life @ Church  
How Life Should Look in the Church  
1 Peter 3:8-12**

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Peter is not done talking about relationships yet. He has just dealt with the touchy area of marriage, especially what he was seeing and what we also see today, when one of those in the marriage does not follow Jesus.

Peter has been talking about the relationships of believers. The first area Peter discussed was the relationship of believers to the state. He then moved to the next step of employer / employee



relationships. Both areas are ones which, for the person serious about following Jesus, can be clearly observed in the marketplace.

Then Peter moved to family relationships and his major concern was what was being seen in the culture, the growing number of marriages where only one in the marriage was saved.

If you thought that was Peter becoming meddlesome, you haven't seen anything yet.

Now he turns his attention to relationships between believers in the body of Christ, the church.

When I was a brand-new Christian, still trying to figure out the way I should now live. I was very privileged.

There were a couple of people close to my age who were in the church but had been believers for a while. They grew up in homes that loved the Lord. I had no idea what that was even like and doing life as a Christian, well that was all completely new to me at the time.

I had the idea that since those around me in the church I was saved in, were Christians, that I could watch the way they lived and get a clue as how I should live. I was seriously wrong.

With one set of grandparents, I could also watch how they do life and learn as well since they were believers. That was a big plus.

But the other side of the family was not serious about the Lord at all and was more oriented into being the best pagans possible.

These two friends helped me a lot. I began to come to the youth group midweek as well as Saturdays and at the time, it was all about discipling young people and not about how to entertain us for an hour and a half. We were taught the Bible and given the opportunity to learn practical how to live stuff. But it depended on who the leader was, and the door was revolving with a new person almost annually.

A few of us, as time went by, got serious about serving the Lord.

We wanted to see other kids our age saved. We wanted to see adults around us wake up to where we were and how soon Jesus was coming back.

But I quickly learned that when you go to a church that has leadership from Laodicea, that becomes really hard to do.

In fact, we began to see serious push back from the older adults in the fellowship who were not interested in revival, only in maintaining the status quo, and that did not include a group of kids on fire for the Lord.

I had rather Biblical ideas about the church, we all did. We truly believed those in the church were in fellowship with each other and pointed to achieving the Great Commission in our lifetime. They weren't. For many, it was a social club.

I can honestly say that those churches, within the same denomination, I interned in while in Bible School operated much the same way too. The problem was, they were all dead congregations. I was not called to resurrect the dead. So, I made a decision and started going to another church in the Santa Ana area of Southern California. Yes, I was also dating someone who went there, but this church was alive.

I finally got to see in action, some of what Peter talks about here in 1 Peter 3. And when I started going to Calvary Chapel, I learned that there are indeed entire congregations committed to this.



To find a congregation truly living this way, is hard to find and hard to maintain. It is done only through the Holy Spirit.

What was I looking for? Like most new believers, I read my Bible, believed what I read and did not understand why that was not a current reality in the church.

I really was looking for the book of Acts to still be in operation today. And for churches to operate in obedience to the word.

Here is what Peter says about relationships in the church, the way it should be.

1 Peter 3:8–12

““To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, loving, compassionate, and humble; not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you would inherit a blessing. For, “THE ONE WHO DESIRES LIFE, TO LOVE AND SEE GOOD DAYS, MUST KEEP HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING DECEIT. HE MUST TURN AWAY FROM EVIL AND DO GOOD; HE MUST SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT. FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE TOWARD THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ATTEND TO THEIR PRAYER, BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST EVILDOERS.”” (NASB 2020)

We are going to be discussing a sensitive subject. You see, when we talk about churches, we are talking about ourselves as well. It is incredibly easy to point our finger at a fellowship for not getting it right, I mean we are all sinners saved by grace after all and prone to not get it right unless we are fully surrendered to the Holy Spirit.

It is so easy to flip over to the flesh when things do not go right, a place I have been experiencing a lot the past few weeks. Staying in the Spirit is a decision. One I now find I must make every morning before I even get out of bed. The enemy wants us in the flesh. The enemy wants us to make it all about us. It isn't about us.

That is what Peter is pointing out here as he roars into the church and hits all of us with multiple imperative commands that as the church, we must be doing.

What should each of us be in the church, what should we be as followers of Jesus Christ, individually as well as collectively is shocking and counter cultural. We are to be each of these things we will look at. The Greek word here is τέλος (telos). It means that “as an action achievement, carrying out, fulfillment...as a closing act end, termination, cessation...as a goal toward which movement is being directed outcome, end (result), purpose. (Friberg, Friberg and Miller 2000, 377)

Peter is telling us up front we have at least six or more things we must be moving towards as a church and as individual believers. He speaks right to all of us directly. All, the whole, every one of us.

The first thing is to be harmonious.

No, this is not a requirement for all believers to be able to carry a tune or sing in tune at all times but hold onto that idea for a moment.

The Greek word here is ὁμόφρονες (homophrones). It means to be “of one mind, like-minded, united with others in the way one thinks” (Friberg, Friberg and Miller 2000, 282)

Here at the very outset, Peter goes after the elephant in the room by saying the opposite of what is a dirty little secret in most churches.



You see, to be of the same mind implies we are all one in the Spirit. That means we are not only saved and have the Holy Spirit living inside of each of us, but it also means we have been filled with the Holy Spirit and are fully enabled, baptized with the Holy Spirit and living in the Spirit. This is not a priority in many churches today.

Many today, are believers, but not in the Spirit, instead they operate in the flesh. Many do not even recognize that, because Satan is so good at lying to us.

Listen what Paul tells us about this priority.

Romans 8:6–8

“For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. **For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.**” (ESV)

For a church, or any believer or group of believers who are not Spirit filled, there is a problem. We are either in the Spirit, or in the flesh.

So, a real quick self-check. Before coming into the study, did you ask the Lord to open the eyes of your heart and teach you via the Holy Spirit with the Word? Did you begin today by inviting the Spirit to fill you anew?

All of us are one minor incident away, and Satan knows this, from being in the flesh and having our minds suddenly turned away from the Lord and unable please Him. We showed up for church on Sunday and discovered that the number of trucks and work to be done by FPL changing out a couple of power poles was seriously understated. I went from being ready to teach the word to having to deal with a situation I was not ready for. How did I do? Not real well. I told myself I was being defensive of the Lord’s church but the reality, I had spent hours the day before preparing the generator and loading up everything we would need to do church. I was being selfish.

We had very little to no access to the place we would worship in and those coming, would not be able to be safe coming and going. So, thanks to two men who were more keyed into the Spirit than I was at that moment, we canceled church. It was the right decision and what the Spirit would have us do. It was a trust Me in this Ken moment and I blew it.

God is good and He forgives, but did you see how easy it was to happen. Easier still, just cut me off when I am driving.

So now, gather a group together all wanting to serve the Lord but not all being in the Spirit. What that means is at that immediate moment, the group is not harmonious. We are to be united in even how we think and that is only possible through the Holy Spirit.

I always got a kick out of Baptist Business meetings and the arguments and lack of agreement in them. Yet they would then pray for the Lord to bless the church. Where was the harmonious? Paul continues with what that truly looks like.

Romans 8:9–14

“You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according



to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. **For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.**" (ESV)

How do I get there? I mean life is tough and Satan, well he really does not want anyone of us to be fully harmonious in the Spirit. He is in deep trouble when we are.

We get there by asking and then simply believing that what He has promised to do, enable us, fill us, baptize us anew with the Spirit, has indeed happened.

Luke 11:13

"If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!**" (ESV)

All we have to do is ask and believe. Sounds good, but here is the thing. Being filled, well it is a command.

Ephesians 5:15–21

"Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. **Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.** And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but **be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.**" (ESV)

Let's stop right now and make sure that, as we are commanded, that we are filled with the Spirit and are indeed even capable of being harmonious.

Yes, we are going to be involved in a participatory exercise as we study this. Harmonious, check.

So, what is point two?

Be sympathetic.

The word translated sympathetic here is συμπαθεῖς (sympathēs). The word means to be "sympathetic, compassionate, sharing the same feelings with another." (Friberg, Friberg and Miller 2000, 362)

Here is the thing, if we are harmonious, in the Spirit and thinking together as we do life, then when good or bad takes place, we are so in touch with each other that we find ourselves sharing the same feelings as our brothers and sisters in Christ.

It is not only, "I am so sorry about what has happened," it is fully identifying with our brother or sister in their joy or pain.

The book of Job has a lot of lessons for us and yes, some of what Job's friends had to say was bad advice. But I am struck by how much they identified with what he was going through. We see that clearly in Job.

Job 2:11–13

"Now when Job's three friends—Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite—heard about all this adversity that had happened to him, each of them came from his home. They met together to go and sympathize with him and comfort him. When they looked from a distance, they could barely recognize him. **They wept aloud, and each man tore his robe and threw dust into the air and**



**on his head. Then they sat on the ground with him seven days and nights, but no one spoke a word to him because they saw that his suffering was very intense.” (CSB)**

There are times where that is all we can do. Our command from Jesus on this is simple, and this is a place where the rubber meets the road.

John 13:34–35

“I give you a new command: **Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.**” (CSB)

As believers, as His body, His church, we live a clearly alternative lifestyle. One which most outside of the church, will not understand. And one which many in the church, no longer want.

The Christian community is to be an alternate society where believers should not have to face the same kinds of insult and hostility that come from those outside the church (cf. comments on 2:1). However, in order for the Christian community to really be a place of support and refuge, certain qualities must characterize its members. (Jobes 2005, 214)

**Should not** is the operative phrase here. Again, we are talking about the Spirit filled and Spirit led church.

We want Calvary Chapel to be a safe place. We are all sinners saved by grace. We desire to live according to His word and that means we want to be a fellowship where we celebrate with our brothers and sisters, and we also mourn with them as well.

We really are family in Christ. Once we believe, then we have all been adopted and despite all we have done, been accepted by the one who died on the cross for us. Sometimes that past shows up in the church because, well, the flesh.

As we see that, we back up and look again at what Peter says.

He is giving us the practical application of what Jesus commanded. **Love one another**, well that means to be harmonious, worshipping together (there is the singing) and being there for each other when we need it. We all need to be accountable to others, all of us.

As we submit to the Spirit, we wind up drawing closer to each other since our thoughts begin to align. But we are in a war. Yes, Jesus has already won, but there are still skirmishes and battles taking place. Especially since we are actively engaged against the enemy taking people away from him.

There will be things to celebrate together, and things to mourn about together. It is this which knits us together as His church and pulls us away from the world and the things of the world.

Having a tender heart leads us to the next term Peter uses here, loving.

The word for loving comes from the Greek word φιλάδελφοι (philadelphoi). We saw this as the name of a city in Asia Minor in the book of Revelation and the meaning is not different here.

The word as used here means “pertaining to love or affection for fellow believers—‘one who loves fellow believers, loving one another as brothers.’” (Louw and Nida 1996, 292)

As the church, we are talking about “loving one’s brother or sister, brotherly, sisterly.” (Liddell, et al. 1996, 1931) The difference here though this is in the church.



Look at the progression Peter has given us so far. Harmonious pointing to the need of being Spirit filled and Spirit led, at all times. As we allow the Holy Spirit to conform us to being more like Jesus, this is a process called sanctification, we find ourselves celebrating each other's achievements in the Lord as well as mourning and sharing the persecutions and results of living in a fallen world.

We grieve when one of our number falls into sin but rejoice as they repent and return to Jesus.

When we believed, we became adopted. Our reality.

Galatians 4:4–7

“When the time came to completion, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, **so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba, Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then God has made you an heir.**” (CSB)

That is serious cool all on its own, but we are all, as believers, now in the same family. We have more brothers and sisters than we can even comprehend. And we get to spend eternity together too. Even with those we would prefer not to. Remember, love?

One more reason why we need to love each other here on earth. It is not about me; it is about Jesus and it is about our brothers and sisters. We are to be harmonious, sympathetic and loving.

Loving means calling out sin but doing so because we love our brother or sister. Loving means we do not put our self-interests above everyone else. It does not mean taking what you know about someone and then using that to obtain an advantage over them or to gaslight and mislead them in order to have them like you. It really shouldn't matter as we are brothers and sisters. But the flesh and free will.

This is a tough one. Not everyone gets this. There are those who take the freedom we have in Christ and then decide to make it all about them and place themselves ahead of their brothers and sisters. We all have various talents and skills as well as various Spiritual gifts. No two of us are the same. But the desire to control others is powerful and yes, there are those who sneak into the church and make it all about themselves and their control over you.

I have seen this with new believers trying to fit in and do so by controlling. I have also seen this, unfortunately, done by others who should know better.

Galatians 5:13–16

“As for you, my brothers and sisters, you were called to be free. **But do not let this freedom become an excuse for letting your physical desires control you. Instead, let love make you serve one another.** For the whole Law is summed up in one commandment: “Love your neighbour as you love yourself.” **But if you act like wild animals, hurting and harming each other, then watch out, or you will completely destroy one another. What I say is this: let the Spirit direct your lives, and you will not satisfy the desires of the human nature.**” (GNB)

Paul was seeing this show up in the church and he warned about it here in his letter to the Galatians. We are all broken but in Christ, we are made whole. Yes, the church is basically a hospital, a place filled with those of us who have come to Jesus, and we are all being disciplined and growing together in Him. Yes, at different rates.

The church is not a place for narcissistic gas lighting people who are in it to obtain approval for themselves at the expense of other believers. We really do not need it because we have, in Christ, all the approval we ever need, Jesus.



This brings Peter to the next term, compassionate.

1 Peter 3:8–9

“To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, loving, **compassionate**, and humble; not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you would inherit a blessing.” (NASB 2020)

The word translated compassionate is εὐσπλαγχνοί (eusplachnoi). The word means “with healthy bowels, compassionate.” (Liddell, et al. 1996, 732) Tenderhearted would also be a good word to use here.

This is a word that is actually derived from one, meaning internal organs. “In an extended sense, the internal organs as the seat of emotion and feeling. So in the New Testament, to have splanchna is to feel deeply for someone, in terms of love, compassion, pity, kindness.” (Arichea and Nida 1980, 98)

It is an idiom of speech, he is not saying to have the same mind, have the same feelings, love one another as brothers and have healthy bowels.

But there is something to this word choice since when you bottle up anger, bitterness and hatred towards a brother or sister, what does that lead to? Rather unhealthy bowels. So, this seems to make sense.

What the idiom is pointing to is how deeply we should feel towards one another in Christ. What does Peter add next, humble. The word translated this is ταπεινόφρονες (tapeinophrones). The word means “low-minded, base. Humble-minded.” (Sophocles 1900, 1069)

The use of this word totally eliminates the problem seen in the church since the time of the Apostles, those who move in and try to take over. If we are in the Spirit, harmonious as we do life together, we will naturally want what the Spirit wants. This means we want to see the gifts of the Spirit exercised and we want to see the body minister to each other. Not everyone wants that.

We will indeed identify with and love our brothers and sisters not allowing ourselves to get into the flesh which would have us move to improve our own situation, but rather, we see the brother or sister who needs to be encouraged, lifted up and loved on in the Lord.

That reflects the compassion being discussed and as we do this, we do it humbly knowing that next week, we may need to be the recipient of what we have been doing.

Doing life as a church, as believers, is not about what I want. It is about what the Lord wants. It is His church. He died for it. He is the one who is protecting it and those who are part of it. We are His adopted kids after all. When you see jockeying for position and that occasional person who insists on doing it their way in the church no matter what, to the point they are almost bullies about it, then you realize that is not what Peter says the church is to be.

The problem is this. In the church, if we are in the flesh, we tend to get in the way of those who are in the Spirit. At times, those in the flesh will gang up to get rid of or fire the one who is in the Spirit. I saw that happen to two pastors I deeply loved in the church I was saved in. They loved the Lord and wanted to teach His word and lead the body to do what Peter is talking about. But in the church, there was this group, and they held power, they were in the flesh, and they wanted someone who would actually hold them accountable for their sin, gone.

And in both cases, after the preliminaries to include gas lighting by the instigators in order to obtain allies, both men were fired. This is a method that Satan has used for thousands of years.





Humble men would have never done what they did. Those who are Spirit filled and Spirit led would indeed call out sin if it was there, but they would never create the false narrative which the elders created for these two men.

This is why Peter lays these terms out as the foundation for how we are to behave in the church. And he adds what that looks like.

1 Peter 3:9

“not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you would inherit a blessing.” (NASB 2020)

It is almost as though Peter was aware of and knew what was going to happen there in the church I was saved in. As the lies about one of the men began to spread, he was attacked by the group about his teaching, which was exegetical, not topical. And yes, there was an invitation for salvation every single time he talked. The temptation was to strike back. He didn't, instead he resigned prior to being fired. That was his interpretation of what Peter says here.

What he did was incredibly hard. Human nature is to retaliate. We forget what Jesus said about those who are busy running around offending His kids.

I talked with that Pastor years later and he reflected that he spent a lot of time reflecting on what Peter says here. He decided to be harmonious even to those who hated him and wanted him gone.

We are called to peace and leave with Him. And He does indeed have some to say about this.

Mark 9:38–42

“John said to Jesus, “Teacher, we saw someone using your name to cast out demons, but we told him to stop because he wasn't in our group.” “Don't stop him!” Jesus said. “No one who performs a miracle in my name will soon be able to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us. If anyone gives you even a cup of water because you belong to the Messiah, I tell you the truth, that person will surely be rewarded. **But if you cause one of these little ones who trusts in me to fall into sin, it would be better for you to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone hung around your neck.**” (NLT)

Jesus takes it very personal. We are called to peace.

Hebrews 10:29–31

“Just think how much worse the punishment will be for those who have trampled on the Son of God, and have treated the blood of the covenant, which made us holy, as if it were common and unholy, and have insulted and disdained the Holy Spirit who brings God's mercy to us. **For we know the one who said, “I will take revenge. I will pay them back.” He also said, “The LORD will judge his own people.” It is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**” (NLT)

We are to forgive and to give a blessing. Remember, the guy who is teaching this was all in on retaliation and wanted to know when he could go on the offensive.

Matthew 18:21–22

“Then Peter came to him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?” “No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven!” (NLT)

Simple answer, never. Leave it with the Lord.



Outside of the church we will indeed run into hostile people. Because we are believers, we are not to be the source of hostility to anyone, ever. As we look at what Peter said regarding this, we get it. But his statement is all inclusive and he includes non-believers in it as well.

Our Christian alternative lifestyle calls us to be like Christ. It is okay to insist on the law being followed, Jesus did that as well (John 8:7), so did Paul (Acts 22:25). But beyond that, we are called to bless.

That is also hard to do. As we stood up Calvary Chapel, there was a location we were looking at as a possibility for the church to meet in. Not only were we told no, we were also told that they (who they are we do not know) would not allow a church into the area. Is that a violation of the law. Yes, state and Federal. That is also a violation of the licensing standards for the agent who said it. We did seek legal advice, and then left it with the Lord.

We felt our reputation as a new church was more important in this situation than asserting our rights under the law. But that does not mean that we wouldn't do so at some other point if the Lord led us to.

Peter then reminds us of something that as we reflect, would make this seem like good advice to follow, even though it is so cross cultural to our pre-Christian sensibilities.

I mean to live in the Spirit, harmonious with others and thinking the same way. Fully identifying with our brothers and sisters in everything.

Loving our brothers and sisters treating them as we would our own families, even better, since we are all adopted kids of King Jesus. Keeping me out of it and humbly serving and following Jesus in everything, even to the point of rejecting retaliation to those in and outside the body who offend us. None of us can do any of this without the Holy Spirit empowering us to do so.

Peter concludes his instructions on how we are to behave in the church with each other by turning to Psalm 34.

1 Peter 3:10–12

“For, “THE ONE WHO DESIRES LIFE, TO LOVE AND SEE GOOD DAYS, MUST KEEP HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING DECEIT. HE MUST TURN AWAY FROM EVIL AND DO GOOD; HE MUST SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT. FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE TOWARD THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ATTEND TO THEIR PRAYER, BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST EVILDOERS.” (NASB 2020)

Peter ties the context of Psalm 34 into his topic of discussion which was dealing with family, brothers and sisters in the church. Psalm 34 is extremely pertinent as it was written by David after he had to feign madness to prevent being killed by Abimelech.

Psalm 34

“Written by David, when he pretended to be insane before Abimelech, causing the king to send him away. I will praise the LORD at all times; my mouth will continually praise him. I will boast in the LORD; let the oppressed hear and rejoice. Magnify the LORD with me. Let us praise his name together. I sought the LORD's help and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears. Look to him and be radiant; do not let your faces be ashamed. This oppressed man cried out and the LORD heard; he saved him from all his troubles. The angel of the LORD camps around the LORD's loyal followers and delivers them. Taste and see that the LORD is good. How blessed is the one who takes shelter in him. Fear the LORD, you chosen people of his, for those who fear him lack nothing. Even young lions sometimes lack food and are hungry, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing. Come children. Listen to me. I will teach you what it means to fear the LORD. Do you want to really live? Would you love to live a long, happy life? Then make



sure you don't speak evil words or use deceptive speech. Turn away from evil and do what is right. Strive for peace and promote it. The LORD pays attention to the godly and hears their cry for help. But the LORD opposes evildoers and wipes out all memory of them from the earth. The godly cry out and the LORD hears; he saves them from all their troubles. The LORD is near the brokenhearted; he delivers those who are discouraged. The godly face many dangers, but the LORD saves them from each one of them. He protects all his bones; not one of them is broken. Evil people self-destruct; those who hate the godly are punished. The LORD rescues his servants; all who take shelter in him escape punishment." (NET 2nd ed.)

In the Psalm referred to by Peter, David also talks about behavior and how to do life. Peter is summarizing and restating this Psalm as he instructs us how to do life as this new thing called a Christian.

1. Praise is primary and continual.
2. Boast in the Lord and remain humble.
3. Exalt the Lord and let Him answer your prayers and rescue from your fear.
4. Jesus is a permanent resident around those who love Him and He rescues us.
5. You want blessing, take refuge in the Lord.
6. Fear of the Lord means lacking for nothing.
7. Those who fear the Lord lack no good thing.
8. You want a long life, hold your tongue, do good, seek peace and pursue it.
9. The Lord sees His own hears them too.
10. The Lord will eliminate evildoers, even the memory of them, from the planet.
11. The Lord hears His own and rescues them from all their trouble.
12. He is right there with us when we are brokenhearted and crushed.
13. Life isn't easy, but the Lord will rescue us from all it throws at us.
14. He protects us.
15. Those who do not know the Lord will be killed by their own lifestyle.
16. He has redeemed us and saved us.

That is how life in the church should look. It doesn't always do so. The sin nature, the flesh and the world have captured many who find it difficult to separate themselves from it and be Spirit filled and led.

I think John summed it all up rather well.

1 John 2:15–22

"Do not love the world or anything that belongs to the world. If you love the world, you do not love the Father. Everything that belongs to the world—what the sinful self desires, what people see and want, and everything in this world that people are so proud of—none of this comes from the Father; it all comes from the world. The world and everything in it that people desire is passing away; but those who do the will of God live for ever. My children, the end is near! You were told that the Enemy of Christ would come; and now many enemies of Christ have already appeared, and so we know that the end is near. These people really did not belong to our fellowship, and that is why they left us; if they had belonged to our fellowship, they would have stayed with us. But they left so that it might be clear that none of them really belonged to us. But you have had the Holy Spirit poured out on you by Christ, and so all of you know the truth. I am writing to you, then, not because you do not know the truth; instead, it is because you do know it, and you also know that no lie ever comes from the truth. Who, then, is the liar? It is those who say that Jesus is not the Messiah. Such people are the Enemies of Christ—they reject both the Father and the Son." (GNB)



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