

What does it mean to be of "one mind" (some versions say "harmony" – how are those related?)? What is essential for us to agree upon? How should we handle disagreement?

What are some ways that we have failed to live in harmony?

Is it possible to increase qualities like humility and compassion? Are there ways that we can work to do that, or does it just happen over time as we unknowingly mature? If we can work at it, what can we do to become more humble or compassionate?

What does Peter say happens when we face evil or insult for living out our Christian faith?

What does it mean that we bless someone who reviles us? Does it entail saying "Merry Christmas" when they wish us "Happy Holidays?" What does it mean when it says God blesses us?

How is peacekeeping demonstrated in the following verses?

- Philippians 4:1-9
- Matthew 18:15-20
- Galatians 2:11-14

What do you think is the connection between avoiding "sins of the tongue" (i.e. speaking lies, etc) and having a good life?

To which qualities or attributes of God does Peter appeal in this section of Scripture? What is the significance of those attributes in the lives of people?

Live It

Which of these four is your greatest need for growth: love, sympathy, unity, or humility? What is keeping you from it?

Who is someone with whom you need to make peace? What is an action step of faith that you need to take, even though it might cost you something?

Understanding Your Place in This World

"Seek Peace and Pursue It"

1 Peter 3:8-12

August 8-9, 2020

Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace, and work to maintain it.

1 Peter 3:11 (NLT)

Sermon Proposition

A follower of Jesus should seek peace and pursue it

1) Because of God's Attributes

"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."

1 Peter 3:12 (ESV)

2) For Your Own Benefit

If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;

Psalms 66:18 (NIV)

3) For the Benefit of People Who Do Not Believe

To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
Romans 12:20-21 (NLT)

4) For the Benefit of Other Christians

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-- think about such things.
Philippians 4:8 (NIV)

Understanding Your Place in This World

Discussion Guide

"Seek Peace and Pursue It"

1 Peter 3:8-12

Read It

Read 1 Peter 3:8-12 together aloud.

8 Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude. 9 Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will bless you for it. 10 For the Scriptures say, "If you want to enjoy life and see many happy days, keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies. 11 Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace, and work to maintain it. 12 The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right, and his ears are open to their prayers. But the Lord turns his face against those who do evil." (NLT)

Open It

Think about a time in which you had to sacrifice your own desires to make peace. What did you have to give up? Was it worth it, or do you regret the sacrifice?

Which is easier for you: to apologize or to forgive? Why?

Consider It

The context of 1 Peter is that the Christians are foreigners and outsiders in this world. When you think about foreigners in our world, what are some similarities that we have to them?

How does Peter describe the relationship that believers should have with each other in verse 8? How does that relate to being a foreigner?