



Life Group Study Guide Gospel Ethics For the Body of Christ

Review

Peter always is concerned about the Gospel— getting the message that Jesus saves out to a lost world and not doing anything in life to hinder the Gospel:

- Suffering with holiness testifies of the Gospel to others because it shows how real Christ is in our lives.
- Submission to a persecuting government is done so as not to hinder the Gospel to government officials.
- Submission to a harsh employer is done so as not to hinder the Gospel to that employer and others at work.
- Submission to an unbelieving husband is done so as not to hinder the Gospel to him.
- Peter then expands his area of instruction to how believers treat each other in the church and how that might promote the Gospel message to an observing unbeliever.

Read 1 Peter 3:8-12

Let's explore Peter's instruction to our church family on how relate to each other in the Gospel so that others can see the Gospel in us beginning with:

Gospel Ethics For Church and Society Relationships

The New Testament teaches Jesus paid it all; therefore all to Him we owe. And Jesus says we owe Him love. And He says one way we show our love to Him is to love who He loves.

Question: What terms are found in verses 8 and 9 that describe what this love for one another looks like?

Question: What is our motivation given in verse 9 for loving each other this way?

Question: How does verse 10 define the blessing? If "loving life and seeing good days" does not mean just getting a bigger house and a bigger car, what do you think it refers to?

Question: how does verse 10 and 11 describe the kind of behavior would rob you of your blessing that Christ offers to those who are looking to His Lordship to guide their lives?

Question: as you face situations that everyone in church faces in every church, if you respond to these situations in your flesh like what is described in verses 10-11, what does verse 12 say about what our evil response will cause God to do?

Questions as you look at verses 8-9:

1. You find out that another person in the church said something derogatory about the way you raise your children. I know how you would feel, but what would be the loving response?
2. You think the song service is too long or you think the sermon is too long. In other words, there is some aspect to the service that is not to your liking. I know how you feel, but how should you NOT respond?
3. You are not called to uniformity or unanimity, but you are called to unity in Christ that leads to harmony with each other. How can you help a brother or sister who is frustrated over not having a Senior Pastor right now?

We are a community of believers inside the church on mission to reach our community of unbelievers outside the church.

Question: If we actually treat each other in the loving way we hope God will treat us, how might this affect a visiting unbeliever to our church (hint: compare to the way you see co-workers treat each other at work)?

Question: How does this entire passage imply that we earn the right to share Jesus by living for Jesus?

Concluding Statements:

Pray and ask God to help us understand that in covenanting to worship together and in covenanting to love each other, we have taken a big step to covenanting together to reach our community for Christ. Because the way God calls people TO Jesus is by first calling the people OF Jesus to community.