**1 Peter: Summing it Up: Be Humble in Spirit**

1 Peter 3:8

**Context**

**1 Peter 3:8-12**—To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; **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 might inherit a blessing. **10**For, “The one who desires life, to love and see good days, Must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit. **11**“He must turn away from evil and do good; He must seek peace and pursue it. **12**“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 those who do evil.”

As much as we would like to think that life as a Christian is devoid of problems, it is not. We will have troubles in this world.

**John 16:33**—These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

Peter is recognizing that believers are not exempt from serious and varied difficulties that will have a tendency to steal their joy (**1:6**). The world will not love us. We will suffer persecution. We will face a hostile society. We do live in an ungodly world. But take heart, He has overcome the world!

We serve a risen Savior who is alive and working all things after the counsel of His will. We trust His sovereign hand and we will endure to the end for faithful is He who promised to keep us.

If we are desirous of living good days (v**10**), then we must live and act in a way that is consistent with the calling. Whatever the Lord allows into our lives is a test of our commitment to Him and a demonstration of His grace to us. It is wise to know and live these truths and to have the right attitude in the process.

Peter has identified various relationships in which we are to think well and have a proper attitude toward: Government, Master/slaves (employer/employee) and husbands/ wives. “He turns to the obligations resting on all the member as they live in this world in contact with each other and with their Gentile neighbors and thus harks back to **2:11-12** and closes this part of his letter as he began it.”[[1]](#footnote-2)

**Summing it up**

1. **Have the right attitude**

**1 Peter 3:8**—To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit

1. To sum up—(telos)—finally, end, termination, the limit at which a thing ceases to be[[2]](#footnote-3)
2. Harmonious (homophrōn)—of one mind; likeminded; harmonious—of one mind[[3]](#footnote-4)
   1. To think the same

**Romans 12:5, 16**—so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another…  **16**Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.

**1 Corinthians 10:17**—Since there is one bread, we whoare many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread.

**1 Corinthians 12:12**—For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.

**Galatians 3:28**—There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there isneither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

**Philippians 1:27-28**—Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; **28**in no way alarmed by your opponents—which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that too, from God.

**Philippians 2:1-5**—Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, **2**make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. **3**Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; **4**do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. **5**Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus

* 1. Sentiment, aim, purpose are to be identical; there is to be no division even inwardly. Peter rightly puts “same-minded” first, for nothing will so impress the world about us nor be so good for our own selves. To be contrary-minded is to harm oneself and others.[[4]](#footnote-5)
  2. We are called to live together in harmony maintaining a commitment to the truth
  3. The conviction and commitment to the truth bonds us together

**Ephesians 4:4-6**—There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; **5**one Lord, one faith, one baptism, **6**one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

* 1. It produces an inward unity of heart with one another

**Romans 12:5**—so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

**1 Corinthians 10:16-17**—Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ? **17**Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread.

* 1. It will manifest itself in love

**John 13:34-35**—A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **35**By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

**John 17:20-23**—“I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; **21**that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. **22**The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; **23**I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.

1. Sympathetic (sympathēs)—having a fellow-feeling; mutually commiserative; having compassion one for another; suffering or feeling the like with another[[5]](#footnote-6)
   1. As believers, we are united in the gospel of truth
   2. Additionally, we are ready to sympathize with the pain of others

**Matthew 25:34-40**—“Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. **35**For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; **36**naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.’ **37**Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? **38**And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? **39**When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ **40**The King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.’

**Hebrews 13:3**—Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, and those who are ill-treated, since you yourselves also are in the body.

**James 1:27**—Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

* 1. The model of sympathy comes from our high priest

**Hebrews 4:15**—For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.

* 1. As part of the body of Christ, we share in the joys and sufferings of others

**Romans 12:15**—Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

**1 Corinthians 12:26**—And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

**2 Corinthians 2:3**—This is the very thing I wrote you, so that when I came, I would not have sorrow from those who ought to make me rejoice; having confidence in you all that my joy would be the joy of you all.

**Colossians 3:12**—So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience

**John 11:35**—Jesus wept.

**James 5:11**—We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord’s dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.

* 1. Mourn for the lost; ever sensitive to their condition

**Matthew 9:36**—Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.

**Luke 13:34-35**—O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not have it! **35**Behold, your house is left to you desolate; and I say to you, you will not see Me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’”

**Luke 19:41-42**—When He approached Jerusalem, He saw the city and wept over it, **42**saying, “If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes.

* 1. The Lord has commissioned us to speak the truth that is so desperately needed to provide the only hope possible

**Acts 8:26-37**—But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, “Get up and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a desert road.) **27**So he got up and went; and there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure; and he had come to Jerusalem to worship, **28**and he was returning and sitting in his chariot, and was reading the prophet Isaiah. **29**Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go up and join this chariot.” **30**Philip ran up and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?” **31**And he said, “Well, how could I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. **32**Now the passage of Scripture which he was reading was this: “He was led as a sheep to slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, So He does not open His mouth. **33**“In humiliation His judgment was taken away; Who will relate His generation? For His life is removed from the earth.”**34**The eunuch answered Philip and said, “Please tell me, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself or of someone else?” **35**Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him. **36**As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch \*said, “Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?” **37**[And Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”]

1. Brotherly (philandelphos)—loving brother or sister; in a broader sense, loving one like a brother, loving one's fellow countrymen[[6]](#footnote-7)
   1. We have an affection among people who are closely related
   2. The affection will be seen in unselfish service for the other

**Acts 20:35**—In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’

**Romans 14:19**—So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.

**15:2**—Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.

**2 Corinthians 11:9**—and when I was present with you and was in need, I was not a burden to anyone; for when the brethren came from Macedonia they fully supplied my need, and in everything I kept myself from being a burden to you, and will continue to do so.

**Philippians 4:14-16**—Nevertheless, you have done well to share with me in my affliction… **16**for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs.

**1 Thessalonians 5:11, 14**—Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing… **14**We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

**3 John 1:6**—and they have testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God.

* 1. That service starts with the household of faith

**Galatians 6:10**—So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

1. Kindhearted (eusplagchnos)—tenderhearted; compassionate, pitiful; having strong bowels; compassionate[[7]](#footnote-8)
   1. The root word refers to internal organs

**Acts 1:18**—Now this man acquired a field with the price of his wickedness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out.

* + - * 1. Affections and emotions have visceral impact, hence this word signifies a powerful kind of feeling[[8]](#footnote-9)

**2 Corinthians 7:13b, 15**—And besides our comfort, we rejoiced even much more for the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all… **15**His affection abounds all the more toward you, as he remembers the obedience of you all, how you received him with fear and trembling.

**1 Thessalonians 2:8**—Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.

* + - * 1. It is not unlike sympathetic in its deep feelings for others
        2. Certainly, we see that in Christ

**Ephesians 4:32**—Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

**Matthew 23:37**—Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling.

1. Humble in spirit (tapeinophrosyne)—humility; humbleness of mind; humility of mind; lowliness; the having a humble opinion of one’s self; a deep sense of one’s (moral) littleness[[9]](#footnote-10)
   1. The scripture is replete with passages related to humility
   2. Arguably, it is the most essential virtue of the Christian walk
   3. It has an all-encompassing quality

**1 Peter 5:5**—You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

**Matthew 5:3**—Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**Matthew 18:4**—Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

**Luke 14:11**—For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

**Ephesians 4:1-2**—Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, **2**with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love

**Colossians 3:12**—So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience

* 1. The model of humility of Christ in His condescension and emptying Himself is staggering

**Philippians 2**

**Matthew 11:29**—Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

**Conclusion**

As believers, when we have the mind of Christ, we have an attitude toward embracing all of these virtues. That desire translates into thoughts and behaviors that please the Lord.

Put on the mind of Christ; set your mind on things above; and live to please Christ.

**1 Corinthians 2:16**—For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he will instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.

**Source**

Most of the message and notes come from:

Richard W. DeHaan, Good News for Bad Times: 1 Peter

R.C.H. Lenski, The Interpretation of I and II Epistles of Peter, the three Epistles of John, and the Epistle of Jude

John MacArthur, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, 1 Peter

John MacArthur, Living and Loving the Good Life, Part 1, 1 Peter 3:8, Aug 13, 1998, gty.org

Jerome H Smith, The New Treasure of Scripture Knowledge

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1. Lenski, 142. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Strong’s G5056 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Strong’s G3675 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Lenski, 142. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Strong’s G4835 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. Strong’s G5361 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. Strong’s G2155 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. MacArthur, 188. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. Strong’s G5012 [↑](#footnote-ref-10)