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Studies in I Peter



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Blessed People Bless:

Grace Living within the Warmth of the Christian Family

I Peter 3:8

INTRODUCTION:

1. Matthew 18:21-35 – Forgiven people forgive.
2. I Peter 3:8-12 – Blessed people bless.



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INTRODUCTION:

3. *To sum up what?*

I Peter 2:11-12 – Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. (12) Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.



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INTRODUCTION:

4. *Y'all* who?

- Not Citizens
- Not Masters
- Not Husbands
- Not Wives
- But . . . everyone!



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#1 – Live Harmoniously

“We are in this together.”

- Jesus Prayed for Harmonious Living
- The basis of our harmonious living . . .
 - Our Oneness in Christ
 - Our Common Faith
 - Our Common Mission
- The evidences of harmonious living are unity and functionality.



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#2 – Live Sympathetically

“I feel your pain.”

- Biblical sympathy is rooted in the second great commandment.
- Biblical sympathy is manifest when we rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep.



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4 Suggestions for the Sympathetically Challenged

1. Pray – Praise God for the blessings of others; intercede before God for the hurting.
2. Jesus – Study the way Jesus ministered to the hurting and needy.
3. Participate – Minister even when you don't feel sympathy. Purposefully partner in ministry with those who portray sympathy.
4. Receive – Avoid a lone-ranger mentality when you are hurting or in need. Gratefully receive the sympathetic ministry of others.



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#3 – Live Brotherly

“I love you, brother.”

- This is a recurring theme in Peter’s letter . . .
 - 1:22 – *fervently love one another from the heart*
 - 2:17 – *love the brotherhood*
 - 4:8 – *Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another*
 - 5:14 – *Greet one another with a kiss of love.*
- “Where God is known as Father, there and only there brotherhood really exists.”



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#4 – Live Kindheartedly

“You’re in my heart.”

- Technical Definition – The adjective is derived from the noun *splangchna*, the internal organs – the heart, lungs and liver – which were thought of as the seat of emotions.
- Practical Definition – Depicts a warm and tender attitude – an affectionate sensitivity toward the needs of others.



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#5 – Live Humbly

“I want to be like Jesus.”

- Pride and Humility in the Proverbs
 - *6:16-17 – These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto Him (17) A proud look . . .*
 - *18:12 – Before destruction the heart of man is haughty and before honor is humility.*
 - *22:4 – By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honor, and life.*



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#5 – Live Humbly

“I want to be like Jesus.”

- Pride and Humility in the New Testament
 - *Matt. 5:3 – Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of God.*
 - *I Peter 5:5b - . . . And all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. (James 4:6)*
 - *Luke 18:9-14*
- Humility in the Sacrifice of our Lord



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CONCLUSIONS

1. These traits should hang on a plaque in the family room of our hearts!
2. What if . . . these traits genuinely characterized your home life and church life?



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CONCLUSIONS

3. Grace Living and Our Mission

John 13:34-35 – As 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.

4. A Challenge

5. Grace Living Amidst the Cruelty of a Hostile Culture



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