

“Be Of One Mind”
1 Peter 3:8-22
5/8/22
Message 7

Introduction

- Title of the Message is: “Be Of One Mind”

- **Review**

- **Context – Persecution**

- Following Christ in a Hostile World
- Persecution Beginning to hit the Church
- Nero – A mad man to say the least

- **Peter Wanted to Encourage them & US**

- **1 Peter 1:1-12 - We Have Living Hope**
 - Never forget who you are in Christ!
- **1 Peter 1:13-25 - An Appeal To Holiness**
 - Because you do belong To Jesus – Live a Holy Life
- **1 Peter 2:1-12 – Christian Conduct**
 - Examples on how to live that holy life
 - People are watching
- **1 Peter 2:13-17 - Submitting to Government**
 - **SO we should be the BEST CITIZENS**
 - We're to SUBMIT to the Government

- So long as they don't ask us to violate God's Word

- **1 Peter 2:18-25 – Best Employees**

- We're to be the BEST Employees
- Be a BLESSING to our Boss' not a BURDEN
- Remembering The Example Of Christ vs. 21-25

- **Last Week 1 Peter 3:1-7 - Silent Sermons – Selfless Husbands**

- Wives
 - Submit
 - Work on inward beauty first
 - Be gentle, quiet, spirit
 - Follow OT examples
- Men
 - Dwell with Understanding
 - Giving Honor
 - Joint Heirs
 - That your prayers may not be hindered

- **NOW This Morning it's ALL About Being of ONE MIND**

- **We will look at 3 wonderful ways to do this**
 - Exhortation To Unity vs. 8-12
 - Encouragement In Suffering vs. 13-17
 - Follow The Example Of Christ vs. 18-22

Exhortation To Unity vs. 8-12

• First: Remember the Context

- Church is under persecution
- Peter has just told us to be the best citizen, workers, have a great family life
- Now make sure you are connected to the church – Unity

• Second: The Importance of Unity

- **1st Unity is based On Doctrine – ONE MIND – ONE FAITH**
 - Not based on FEELINGS
 - Not based on WISHFUL thinking
 - We CAN'T be united with those outside THE FAITH
 - We can and do love them but we can't have unity / Fellowship with them
- **2nd In Christ - We are a Family – God is our Father**
 - A BIG FAMILY –
 - Made up of ALL NATIONS
 - Our FATHER IS Glad we are his Kids
 - Lucado - If God had a wallet & Fridge our Pictures would all be in/on
 - Remember
 - That when you're having a hard time with someone in the body of Christ

- When Jesus goes to the fridge, He sees your picture next to that person... ha-ha
- **3rd Now are we a Perfect Family?**
 - It's been said –
 - *To dwell above with saints we love, Oh that will be glory.*
 - *But to live below, with saints we know - Well, that's another story!*
 - **1st Practically in this life – Not Perfect**
 - We are a group that has many flaws and shortcomings
 - In fact in every Church family – **You have the “Tate Clan”**
 - Old man Dic - Tate
 - He wants to run everything
 - Brother Potent - Tate
 - He wants to be a big shot
 - Uncle Commen - Tate
 - Always has a word to say
 - You have Brothers
 - Hesi – Tate & Vega – Tate
 - Always reluctant to step out & get involved
 - Cousins
 - Irra – Tate & Agai – Tate

- Who are always stirring things up
 - Aunt Imi – Tate
 - Who is always wondering why we can't do it like they do
 - Uncle –Ro – Tate
 - Who is always wanting to Change things
 - Eventually you will run into the Black sheep of the Tate Family
 - Ampu – Tate
 - He is the one who just cuts himself off from the family all together
- Yes when you look at the Church
 - It is easy to see from the outward we are far from perfect
- **2nd BUT Positionally – God sees us Different**
 - But listen to what the Lord says – concerning how He sees us in

Hebrews 10:14 (NKJV)

14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

Hebrews 2:11 (NKJV)

11 For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,

- **4th Why is this important to have UNITY?**
 - **1st The World is watching**

1 Peter 2:12 (NKJV)

12 having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

John 13:35 (NKJV)

35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

- **2nd BRINGS God pleasure**

Psalms 133:1 (NKJV)

1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!

- It blesses the Father –
- It is Pleasant to Him = DELIGHTFUL
 - It is a delight to His heart when His kids dwelling in Unity
- Just like when your kids are all getting along
- **5th Ways to Be United**
 - **1st Unity of Praise – In worship**

Romans 15:5–6 (NKJV)

5 Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus,
6 that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- **2nd Unity of Prayer –**
 - Petitioning the Lord
 - Lord is Blessed when his people – come together in prayer

Colossians 4:2–6 (NKJV)

2 Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;

3 meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains,

4 that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

5 Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.

6 Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

▪ 3rd Unity of Mission – SERVICE

Philippians 1:27 (NKJV)

27 Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,

- The Lord enjoys seeing his kids working together for the building up of the Body of Christ & the Furthering of the Kingdom

- Remember – IT's NOT a competition

- *Tozer; "God's servants are not to be competitors but co-workers"*

- Understand - Diversity in the Body

- One Body many different functions – different gifts

- ALL are needed

- A body will not function well without everyone doing their jobs

- Illustration

- Brother Hammer was appointed to preside over the Master Tool Convention.

- Brother Screwdriver objected, saying “Brother Hammer, you’re too noisy to preside over this meeting.
- You’re always driving home your point, always nailing people. I call for your resignation immediately.
- Brother Hammer responded “Well, what about you, Brother Screwdriver? All you ever do is spin around in circles.”
- “That may be true, said Brother Screwdriver, but at least I’m not like Brother Plane. His work is so surfacy, so shallow. What right does he have to even be here?”
- “If you’re going to kick me out, protested Brother Plane, what about Brother Ruler? He thinks he’s always right, measuring everyone else by his standards”
- “Well, if you’re going to come down on me, argued Brother Ruler, what about Brother Plier? He needs to get a grip!”
- “At least I don’t rub people the wrong way, said Brother Plier, who was staring at Brother Sandpaper.
- Just then the Master Craftsman walked in. And, as He used each tool at the perfect time, He created an object of great beauty.
- Many parts - all have our place in the masters work shop - need to let Him use us as He wants to !

- **Unity does not mean uniformity!**

• **Third: What Unity Looks Like**

○ 1st Be of one MIND v. 8a

1 Peter 3:8–9 (NKJV)

8 Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous;

▪ **Finally**

- I said ALL of this to say this!!!

▪ **Be of ONE MIND - There is ONLY ONE FAITH**

- The Faith of the Bible

○ *"In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity"*

- This means we all need to be in the WORD

○ So Many disagreements with Christians is a failure to understand the mind of Christ – HIS WORD

- We have Opinions BUT what does the Word say
- Most of us are willing to have one mind, as long as that one mind is my mind!
- BUT we have UNITY in WHAT God says NOT what we say

○ 2nd Having Compassion... Tenderhearted... Courteous v. 8b

1 Peter 3:8 (NKJV)

8 Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous;

▪ **Having Compassion**

- Literally - this means "to suffer" with

- This admonition is especially appropriate
 - It was given to those undergoing persecution
- Were to SUFFER with one and another
 - Sadly - The Christian Army is the only army that shoots it's wounded

▪ **Love As Brothers**

- Our Love for God and His love for US makes us a family – we are brothers & Sisters
- In MANY ways we are closer to each other then we are with our own family

▪ **Be Tenderhearted**

- The Greek word used here
 - Is unusual and used only twice in the NT.
 - It comes from 2 words –
 - Good and Spleen
- NOW
 - The people of the ancient world believed different emotions were located in different organs of the body.
 - That's why we often encounter the phrase “bowels of mercy.”
 - The spleen was the position of Tenderness
- Means

- The sense of wanting to be careful with someone or something lest it be damaged.
- Peter is saying we need to be careful with one another so that we don't hurt each other.
- Means having a heart sensitive to the needs and feelings of others.
- It refuses to turn cold, callous, or cynical in spite of abuse!

▪ **Be Courteous**

- Means humbly thinking of others
 - Putting others first, and saying and doing the gracious thing.
 - Courtesy serves others before self
 - Jumps at opportunities to assist
 - Expresses prompt appreciation for kindnesses received.
 - It is never coarse, vulgar, or rude.

○ **3rd Not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling v. 9a**

1 Peter 3:9 (NKJV)

9 *not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.*

▪ **Don't Return Evil with Evil - BUT with LOVE**

- The greatest challenge to our love for others comes when we are wronged.
- At those times we are called to not return evil for evil, but to give a blessing instead.

Matthew 5:44–47 (NKJV)

- 44** *But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,*
- 45** *that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.*
- 46** *For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?*
- 47** *And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?*

- No dispute, argument, or personality conflict among believers should linger.
- Even if one Christian gets out of line, the loving response of other Christians should keep the problem small and short-lived

○ **4th That You May Inherit a BLESSING vs. 9-12**

▪ **A Blessing**

1 Peter 3:9 (NKJV)

9 *not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.*

- If you can't love for the sake of Jesus, or for the sake of your brother, then do it for your own sake!
- You will be Blessed now and later for taking the high road

▪ **What the Blessing Looks like vs. 10-12**

- A quotation from Psalm 34:12-16
 - Demonstrates the blessing that comes to those who turn away from evil and do good.

- **1st For He Who Would Love Life and See Good Days v. 10**

1 Peter 3:10 (NKJV)

10 For *“He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit.*

- The believer has been granted the legacy to enjoy his life (John 10:10)
- We can focus on the negative or the blessings in the moment
- Wiersbe; *“We must deliberately decide to love life. This is an act of the will: “He who wills to love life.” It is an attitude of faith that sees the best in every situation. It is the opposite of the pessimistic attitude expressed in Ecclesiastes 2:17: “Therefore I hated life ... for all is vanity and vexation of spirit.” We can decide to endure life and make it a burden, escape life as though we were running from a battle, or enjoy life because we know God is in control.*

- **2nd Let him turn away from evil and do good:**

1 Peter 3:11 (NKJV)

11 Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it.

- We MUST turn from EVIL
- Doing good is often difficult because as a general rule, evil is rewarded immediately and the reward of doing good is often delayed.
- But the rewards of good are better and far more secure than the rewards of doing evil. God promises this in the passage quoted by Peter.
- Seek Peace

- **3rd The Lord is Watching v. 11**

1 Peter 3:12 (NKJV)

12 *For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil.”*

- The Blessing is knowing that you have done what the Lord has required of you

Micah 6:8 (NKJV)

8 *He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God*

Encouragement In Suffering vs. 13-17

- **First: How to handle it when our good is returned with evil vs. 13-17**

- **1st And who is he who will harm you v. 13**

1 Peter 3:13 (NKJV)

13 *And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good?*

- The answer implied is “No One”
- Yet the history shows us a different story
 - Martyrs - The enemies of the gospel do harm faithful disciples.
- Two possible explanations of this paradox:
 - 1st Generally speaking, those who follow a path of righteousness are not harmed.
 - A policy of nonresistance disarms the opposition.
 - Peter tells them to keep doing good, because good will result in the least trouble for them
 - 2nd The worst that the foe can do to a Christian does not give eternal harm.

- The enemy can injure his body but he cannot damage his soul.
- **3rd But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed v. 14**

1 Peter 3:14 (NKJV)

14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled."

- What to remember when we suffer persecution
 - God overrules the suffering for His own glory
 - He uses the suffering to bring blessing to others
 - He blesses the one who suffers for His name

Matthew 10:28 (NKJV)

28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

- **5th Those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed vs. 15-17**

- **1st Acknowledge Christ As Lord v. 15a**

1 Peter 3:15 (NKJV)

15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

- Sanctify = Set apart in your hearts Christ as Lord.
- It means
 - Turn everything over to Him.
 - Live only to please & glorify Him

- Don't be satisfied with anything less than the will of God in your life!

John 4:34 (NKJV)

34 Jesus said to them, *"My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work."*

- How do we prepare ourselves for trials & tribulations that come from a hostile world?
 - Not simply by hardening our minds or steeling our wills
 - But by immersing ourselves in righteousness before God & man.

▪ **2nd Always Be Ready To Give a Defense v. 15b**

1 Peter 3:15 (NKJV)

15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

- Defense
 - Apologia - to give an account; or to provide legal testimony.
 - Where we get the field of Apologetics.
 - Every believer is called to have an answer / give a defense!
 - We are not to roll over, but defend!
 - Not our-selves - BUT defend our Hope in Christ
- Illustrations
 - Like Stephen "And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke."

- Like Paul with Felix “Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you.”
- Like Paul with Festus “Now as he thus made his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, "Paul, you are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad!" But he said, "I am not mad, most noble Festus, but speak the words of truth and reason.”
- Like Paul with Agrippa “Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You almost persuade me to become a Christian.”
- Always With Meekness and FEAR
 - Don't share your faith with arrogance, or with an heir of superiority

▪ **3rd Keep a Good Conscience vs. 16-17**

1 Peter 3:16–17 (NKJV)

16 *having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.*

17 *For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.*

- Having a good Conscience
- The conscience
 - Is that internal judge that either accuses or excuses our actions.
- We MUST have a good Conscience
 - Cowardice asks the question: Is it safe?
 - Consensus asks the question: Is it popular?

- Conscience asks: Is it right?
- Wiersbe; The conscience being like “a window” that lets in the light of God’s truth
- If we persist in disobeying...the window gets dirtier & dirtier.
- This leads to a defiled conscience (Titus 1:5)
- To a seared conscience (1 Tim. 4:2)
- Ultimately to an evil conscience (Heb.10:22)
- Saints...Keep your window clean! - So God’s Word can shine in; & for the world to peer in.

Follow The Example Of Christ vs. 18-22

• **NOTE most challenging portion of scripture**

- Many different ideas
- If I remember right someone said there is about 150 ideas on what this portion means

• **DON'T Lose the CONTEXT**

- BUT we don’t want to lose sight of the context
- Jesus shows the power of suffering for doing good

• **First: Through His godly suffering, Jesus brought us to God v. 18**

1 Peter 3:18 (NKJV)

18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,

- **1st For Christ also suffered once for sins:**

- Jesus suffered ONCE for sins.
 - There is no longer any sacrifice or atonement that can please God other than what Jesus provided at the cross.
 - The price has already been paid.
- **2nd The just for the unjust**
 - Jesus is a perfect example of suffering for doing good.
 - He, the just, suffered for all of us who are the unjust –
 - The purpose of it all was to bring us to God, to restore our broken and dead relationship with Him.
- **3rd Being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit**
 - Jesus did die in His body but was raised from the dead by the Holy Spirit.
 - Here, the Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit raised Jesus from the dead.
 - Trinity
 - Father raised Jesus from the dead (Romans 6:4)
 - Jesus raised Himself from the dead (John 2:18-22)
 - The resurrection was the work of the Triune God.
- **Second: Through godly suffering, Jesus preached to the spirits in prison vs. 19-20a**

1 Peter 3:19–20 (NKJV)

*19 by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison,
 20 who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited
 in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is,
 eight souls, were saved through water.*

○ **1st By whom:**

- This means that Jesus was inspired by the Holy Spirit when He did the work of preaching to the spirits in prison.
- He was made alive by the Spirit, and then also did this work by the same Spirit.

○ **2nd He went and preached to the spirits in prison:**

- Apparently this work was done in the period after Jesus' death but before His first resurrection appearance to the disciples.
- Jesus went to Hades – the abode of the dead – and preached to the spirits there.
- Luke 16:1-31

○ **3rd Spirits in prison:**

- Though some have regarded these spirits as human spirits
- It is more likely that they were **demonic spirits**.
- We know that their disobedience was in **the days of Noah** (1 Peter 3:20).
- We have evidence that this was a time of gross sin for both demons and humans, when there was an ungodly mingling of humans and demons (Genesis 6:1-2).

○ **4th Preached to the spirits in prison:**

- We also don't know exactly why Jesus preached to these imprisoned spirits.
- In all probability this was preaching (the proclamation of God's message)

- But it was not evangelism (the proclamation of good news)
- Jesus preached a message of judgment and final condemnation in light of His finished work on the cross to these disobedient spirits.
- In doing this there was a completion in Jesus' triumph over evil, even the evil that happened before the flood.

• **Third: The salvation of Noah as a picture of baptism vs. 20b-22**

1 Peter 3:20–22 (NKJV)

20 *who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.*

21 *There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,*

22 *who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.*

○ **1st Eight souls, were saved through water:**

- Even as Noah's salvation from the judgment of God was connected with water
- So the Christian's salvation is connected with water, the water of baptism.
- The water of the flood washed away sin and wickedness and brought a new world with a fresh start before God.
- The water of baptism does the same thing, providing a passage from the old to the new.

○ **2nd Not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God:**

- Peter was careful to point out that it isn't the actual water washing of baptism that saves us

- But the spiritual reality behind the immersion in water
- What really saves us
 - A good conscience toward God
 - A conscience made good through the completed work of Jesus.
- **3rd Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God:**
 - We see the completeness
 - Jesus is Work of salvation is completed!!
 - It is Finished

Closing

- May we walk in unity in these last days – with potential suffering around the corner