

^{3:8} Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. ⁹ Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. ¹⁰ For,
“Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech.
¹¹ *They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it.*
¹² *For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”^a*

Review the context.

- How does Peter characterize the attitude in which we treat those who are oppressive or harsh with us?

Understand it.

- What does it look like when a community experiences *like-mindedness*?
- How can the people of faith present these attributes (v.8) without being perceived as weak... (or pushovers)?
- V.9 echoes the idea that all Christians (not just *slaves* in 2:21) are called to reflect Jesus’ example as one who did not retaliate or insult those who hurt him. How would such retaliation jeopardize our Christian witness?
- Take a moment and turn to Psalm 34:12-16 to read more context behind Peter’s quote.
 - Verses 10-12 pull in proverbial wisdom and a call to holy living. What is the advantage of righteous living? What is the role of “wisdom” in people’s lives when we try to live righteously for God?
 - Tradition (and most bibles’ introductions to Psalm 34) tell us that this psalm arose out of David’s time of exile before his kingship. How might the narrative of David’s troubles deliver encouragement to those who are afraid or oppressed? (see 1 Samuel 20-21)
 - How does this passage (and the psalmist) contrast the goal of the righteous with that of the wicked?
 - How does it help to be exhorted to “*turn from evil and do good*”?

Apply it.

- Peter employs the use of a song (Psalm 34) to encourage the Church. How does God use music (or art) to strengthen you when you are afraid or distressed?
- Who is God calling you to love – whom you find difficult to do so? How could you be praying for that person to experience God in spite of their treatment of you?
- **Journal idea.** Peter reiterates that the whole family of God has a calling to demonstrate the goodness of God. Have you thought about how God has uniquely placed you in a situation or relationship where you can live out a special calling?

^a 1 Peter 3:12 Psalm 34:12-16