

## **WEDNESDAY AUGUST 11**

### **CHRISTIAN CHARACTER QUALITIES**

#### **Part 2**

#### **1 Peter 3**

**As a witness/representative of the Lord Jesus, we are to be reflecting the character and image of Christ in our actions as well as our speech. In 1 Peter 3, Peter gives us a list of what this should look like. Each of these character qualities are to be as a mirror to be held up before us to see if we are reflecting back Christ's image in our lives. We looked at six of these yesterday and we'll look at six more here.**

**1. There will be no giving back of insults for insults we receive (scolding or tongue-lashing) (Verse 9). Some translations speak of this as reviling for reviling. Jesus is our example as far as not lashing back when He was verbally insulted. "When He was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He was suffering, He did not threaten but entrusted Himself to the One who judges justly." (1 Peter 2:23 HCSB) Peter could make this statement as he was an eye witness of this.**

**2. On the other hand, we are to be a blessing to others (verse 9). We were called to this so that we in turn are blessed. We don't bless others as a means to be blessed ourselves but rather we bless to please the One we serve. We are not to allow any evil action to conquer us but rather we conquer evil against us with good. (Romans 12:21)**

**3. One of the most difficult things for us to do is to control our tongue. However, that is a characteristic to be evident in our lives (verse 10). The one who loves life and desires to see good days must keep the tongue from speaking anything deceitful or evil. The tongue only speaks what is down in our heart so a pure heart must be kept/made pure.**

**4. Speaking anything deceitful is evidence of deception. Any form of deception is not characteristic of a true follower of Christ (verse 10). We are to be truthful and honest in every respect.**

**5. We should not entertain or allow any form of evil into our lives (verse 11). It is a contaminate that can do great damage and keep us from doing good.**

**6. As much as possible we are to seek peace and pursue it (verse 11). It was Jesus who said, "The peacemakers are blessed, for they will be called sons of God." (Matthew 5:9 HCSB) A peaceful spirit will bring a length of days (it is healthy). To live in peace means more than the absence of conflicts. We will face these, but to be an effective peacemaker will require effort. When conflicts arise, we deal with them in an appropriate and godly way.**

**When we are allowing the Holy Spirit to change us in such a way that we take on each of**

**these character qualities, we bring honor to the Lord Jesus. Even more important is what Peter relates in verse 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." (NIV) Let us pursue and be doers of good so that the beauty of Jesus is seen in us.**