

TUESDAY AUGUST 10

CHRISTIAN CHARACTER QUALITIES

Part 1

1 Peter 3

As a believer and follower of the Lord Jesus, when others look at us and see the manner in which we conduct ourselves, we should be reflecting the image and character of the One we follow. It is not by our own efforts this is accomplished, but rather as we allow Christ to make the changes within.

In 1 Peter 3, Peter gives us a picture of what those Christian character qualities look like. Let's take a look in order to see how these are being reflected in our own lives.

1. We are to be of one mind (verse 8). This doesn't mean we are all going to think alike on every topic. However, the word here means of the same mind; like-minded and refers to our faith and purpose in serving Christ....having the same goals.

2. We are to have a compassion for one another (verse 8). "Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep." (Romans 12:15 HCSB)

3. We are to love fellow believers (verse 8). We should pursue the love of Christ...that it be our motivation, that it causes us to see others as Christ sees them.

4. The compassion and love of Christ helps us in being tender-hearted (verse 8). The meaning here is to be conscious of one another's needs. This would include being touched by others hurts and pains as well as needs and then be ready and willing to act in some way to help. The emotional support can help encourage others during these difficult times.

5. A follower of Christ will be courteous (verse 8). The idea of friendliness and humility are both implied and both should be evident when it comes to the treatment of others. Having an honest estimate of ourselves before God keeps from a prideful attitude.

6. When we are treated in an evil way, we do not retaliate with evil (verse 9). "Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Try to do what is honorable in every-one's eyes." (Romans 12:17 HCSB)

As we look at Peter's life, he is a prime example how a yielded vessel can be changed by the Holy Spirit. In his earlier days, these attitudes did not come to him naturally. He was a strong-willed, impulsive type, but Christ working in him brought about the changes which revealed a Christ-like vessel. The same can apply to us as we allow the Holy Spirit to work in us as well.