

First Peter 3:8-16

General Revelation teaches all men to be just and do what is right
Special Revelation effects how we think and how we feel.

In 1 Peter 3:8 there are five imperatives for the believer

In 1 Peter 3:9 there is one imperative on how do interact with the non-believer

The Five Imperative

1. One Mind
2. Sympathetic
3. Love Brothers
4. Compassionate
5. Humble Minded

The first and last (#1 and #5) deal with how we think.

The second and Fourth (#2 and #4) deal with how we feel.

The middle one is brotherly love.

Divisions of the Book of First Peter:

1. Our Salvation and Inheritance (1:3-12)
2. Our responsibility to be holy (1:13-2:3)
3. Our position as God's House, yet as Aliens in the world. (2:4-12)
4. Our responsibility to live in harmony
 - a. with the establishment in the natural world. (2:13-3:7)
 - b. With the community of believers (3:8-3:12)
5. Principles of suffering (3:13-4:19)

3:8

“Finally” conclusion of the group exhortations. This is the transition into the summary as we move from ethical duties to Christian Character.

1. **All of One Mind** – means likeminded, inward unity. Speaks of the goal and purpose of the body of Christ. When spiritual goals are unified it makes division difficult. There is one body but many spiritual gifts or many parts. The church's goal is to:
 - a. Mature the saints
 - b. Evangelize the world
 - c. Read Romans 12:14-16 and Philippians 1:27; 2:2
2. **Sympathetic** – means full of sympathy and sharing feelings. The Greek word is made up of two words that mean: a) “to be affected” or “to feel” and b) “with”. This word “sympathetic” means to have feelings stirred up by circumstances and to have a readiness to enter into the feelings of others either joy or sorrow. If we can have sincere feelings then our actions towards them will always be appropriate. Read Hebrews 4:15 where Jesus was and is a high priest who acted because he had this experience of “sympathy” for us.
3. **Love as brothers**
4. **Compassionate** – tenderness, tender hearted. In first century society it was a cold society. Mt. 24:12 “the love of most will grow cold”.
 - a. 1 Timothy 3:1,2 “lovers of themselves and lovers of pleasure.” Christianity is charitable and this is seen during the Christian holiday of Christmas.
5. **Humble Minded** – modest opinion of oneself. Willing to use all your talent and ability to achieve the group goal and not be the body part going a different way.

3:9

“Blessing” means to speak well of someone. It has the idea of having a friendly disposition that results in actions such as prayer and good deeds.

3:12

God is attentive to us who do right

- 1) eyes are upon
- 2) ears are “into” our prayers

This is a statement of victory in situations.
If we will continue to do right God will always be with us.

3:13

If verse 12 is correct then who will harm you?

There are two reasons why you have nothing to fear when you do what is right:

- 1) People will not come against you if you do what is right
- 2) God will always be with you if you do what is right

“eager” is the word for “zealot” and means in the Greek “to burn with zeal, desire earnestly

These verses have a prophetic sound to them: If you will pursue what is right things will be good!

3:14

“even if you should” indicates a rare thing

ει και is “if” in the fourth class condition in the Greek

Condition	Meaning	Example Verse
1 st Class	“if and it is true”	1 Co. 15:2 – I know you are”
2 nd Class	“if and it is not true”	1 Co. 2:8 Luke 7:39
3 rd Class	“if and I don’t know”	Matt. 4:9
4 th Class	“if and I wish but it is not true” ”if but it is not probable”	Luke 22:67 1 Peter 3:14

“Be not affected with fear by the fear which they strive to inspire in your hearts”

Isaiah 8:12 – written to the believers in the nation which was coming under judgment

Isaiah 8:13 – Yhwh of armies

3:15

“set apart” is sanctify or a pagan term for setting a building aside for religious purposes

“Christ” is χριστος or Anointed One, Messiah

”Lord is κυριος and is the Greek word for YHWH from the OT and the Greek word “master”

“answer” is απολογια which means to give a defence. It is literally “to talk off from” refers to an attorney who talked his client “off from” the charges

Today we need to be able to talk charges off from the accusations of modernism, humanism atheism or doubt.

This is a verbal defense.

3:12, 13 began with defense by good deeds

3:16 will again return to good deeds

So we see here these steps:

- 1) do good
- 2) people like you for your good deeds
- 3) or, people oppose you in spite of your good deeds
- 4) you continue to good and trust (fear) YHWH of Armies or Lord Christ
- 5) people ask you why you act different or have hope
- 6) you verbally explain or defend the Lord and his word
- 7) you continue to do good to show your defense to be true