

Sermon Study Guide –

1 Peter 3:8-12

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Week of May 8, 2022

Title: **“Let Your Love Flow”**

Sermon Idea: Believers are called to a lifestyle of harmony, humility, and honoring.

Key Points:

1. Internal integrity: love one another. Thank God for a family in a hostile world!
2. External integrity: love your enemies. Thank God for who He is and His ultimate justice!

What do I want people to know? I want people to know that we are ambassadors of the kingdom of God called to make Christ known. To do that, we must show the world the goodness of God by loving one another and blessing those who curse us.

What do I want people to do? I want people to (1) thank God for your church family, (2) pray for those who hurt/oppose them, and (3) thank God for who He is and His justice.

What need am I addressing? I am addressing the need to live lives that honor God in the midst of a pagan society.

Recommended Resources: *“Life Together,”* Dietrich Bonhoeffer; *“Amazing Love,”* Corrie ten Boom

Intro: What are some reasons that committed Christians choose not to come to or participate in a local church?

Dig:

Day 1: 1 Peter 3:8-12 serves as a summary of the section on submission. What are the five commands about church community and what are the five commands about dealing with those who oppose the church?

Day 2: John 13:1-17,34-35 gives us a dramatic example of what love one another looks like. Imagine you’re Peter. Why is this so hard for him? What does this tell us about how we are to love one another?

Day 3: Romans 12:14-21 is a parallel passage to ours. What similarities are there? What is the biggest challenge to you?

Day 4: 1 Corinthians 12:12-26 describes the church as the Body of Christ. What two common attitudes cause the body to malfunction? What is at the root of these attitudes?

Day 5: Acts 7:54-60 narrates the martyrdom of Stephen. What is commendable about how he handles himself here? How is he able to do so?

Apply:

- Commit to regular church attendance and to thanking God for your spiritual family.
- Pray by name, every day, for someone who has hurt you. Ask God to give you the love and grace to see them as He does.
- Thank God for who He is – Lord of all and the Ultimate Judge who will do right.

Pray: Father God, I thank You that You have given me a spiritual family to call home. I’m grateful for my brothers and sisters even when things aren’t easy. I’m grateful too that You are sovereign over all the injustice that goes on against the church. I look forward to the blessing in store for those who trust in You. In Jesus’ name, amen.
