The Big Picture

*Finding God’s Purposes in 1 Peter*

Pastor Toby • Week 24 • 1/29/2023

**How This All Works**

1 Peter 3:8-12

How Can We Keep Going In A Hostile World?

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ around our common \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (3:8a)
* \_\_\_\_\_\_ about each other’s \_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (3:8b)
* Consider other believers your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (3:8c)
* Allow yourself to be moved to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (3:8d)
* Seek to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from each other. (3:8e)
* Refuse the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (3:9-12)
  + Don’t fight \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (3:9a)
  + Wish God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on those who have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ you. (3:9b)
  + Align yourself with \_\_\_\_\_\_ so He can \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ you. (3:10-12)

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Debrief Plan: 1/29/2023

**Icebreakers**:

1. Besides church, what is your favorite activity to engage in with a large group of people? Share one example of this activity that was particularly memorable for you.
2. Define what you think it means to be a “warm” person. Tell your group about the “warmest” person you have ever met.

**Sermon Summary**: The Church (the people, not the building or the organization) is meant to be a safe place to heal from the attacks that come at us from a hostile world. In order to become that, each Christian must treat all the others in a counter-cultural way, refusing to get involved in a war of retribution on those who have hurt them.

**Discussion Questions**:

1. **Read 1 Peter 3:8.** Why do we tend to use these qualities to evaluate how WE have been treated by other Christians as opposed to how WE treat others? Are we just unwilling to look in the mirror or is something else going on here?
2. Of the five activities described in 1 Peter 3:8, which one is the hardest to maintain over time?
3. Churches talk about “unity” all the time – what things do we tend to “unify” around that aren’t healthy or help us accomplish our purpose? Why are these counterfeits so appealing to us?
4. What are some ways that we can keep our hearts open to each other as Christians, even after we’ve been hurt?
5. How will a Christian with a “humble mind” treat another Christian who is different from them or has something they wish they had?
6. What might it look like to “bless” someone who has done evil to you? For example, suppose you have just been insulted or attacked by one of your siblings or one of your children maliciously. What should you say in return as a Christian that doesn’t diminish the evil done to you or is hopelessly fake and inauthentic?
7. Describe the “God’s Best” that we are to wish upon those who have done evil to us. Are we wishing them health, wealth, and success? Or something else?