

Series: Relationship Reset

10/19/25

Title: Better Together: Relationships in the Church

Scripture: 1 Peter 3:8-12

Speaker: Brad Bush

Getting to Know You:

1. Share your story of how and when God brought you to be a part of Princetown Church. What were some of your first thoughts or feelings after your first visit here?
2. What is one relationship in your life that has made your life better? How has it helped you?

Into the Bible:

Read 1 Peter 3:8-12 - **8** Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. **9** Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. **10** For

*“Whoever desires to love life
and see good days,
let him keep his tongue from evil
and his lips from speaking deceit;*

11 *let him turn away from evil and do good;
let him seek peace and pursue it.*

12 *For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and his ears are open to their prayer.*

But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

1. What is one verse or phrase from this passage that particularly stands out to you? Why does it resonate with you?
2. Verse 8 calls for believers to have ‘unity of mind’. How does this differ from simple uniformity? What does this mean in practice, given the diversity of personalities and opinions in any group?
3. In the sermon it was mentioned that three things needed for unity are a common purpose, submission, and the work of the Holy Spirit. How does each of these contribute to unity in a church? (or how might the lack of these prevent unity?)
4. What are some differences between loving each other as brothers and sisters and just being nice to one another?

5. How can we cultivate a tenderhearted, sympathetic, and humble attitude and why is that often difficult?
6. Which of the 5 attitudes in verse 8 is the most challenging for you to live out and why?
7. Peter instructs us to "bless" others in response to mistreatment (v. 9). What does it look like to bless someone who has hurt you? How does this challenge your natural instincts?
8. Think of a time you were tempted to "repay evil with evil or insult with insult" (v. 9). What happened, and what makes this response so difficult to resist?
9. Peter quotes Psalm 34 in verses 10–12. What specific actions does the passage link to "loving life and seeing good days"?
10. Verses 10–11 emphasize that our words and actions are tied to "loving life and seeing good days". What effect do you think a person's words have on their own well-being?
11. When you face conflict, is your first instinct to defend yourself or to seek peace? What specific steps can you take to "turn from evil and do good" (v. 11) the next time you are in a difficult situation?
12. In verse 12, what does Peter say about the Lord's attention toward the righteous and those who do evil?
13. Verse 12 states that "the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer". How does knowing this truth encourage you to persevere in doing good, even when it's hard?
14. In what ways is living out this passage a powerful testimony to unbelievers? What might someone who doesn't know Christ observe about your life if you were to fully embody these verses?

Application Questions:

1. What concrete actions can you take this week to practice "seeking peace and pursuing it" (v. 11), both within your church and with people outside of it?
2. Peter's commands for healthy relationships apply to all areas of life. Consider your closest relationships (family, friends, coworkers). In which relationship is it easiest to live out this passage, and where is it most challenging?
3. Which of the 5 attitudes discussed in verse 8 can you take a step in practicing this week?
(*8 Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.*)