

A New Humanity

1 Peter 3:8-12

Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. 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. For
“Whoever desires to love life and see
good days, let him keep his tongue
from evil and his lips from speaking
deceit; let him turn away from evil
and do good; let him seek peace
and pursue it. 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.”

Finally all of you

All of you- submit to government

Servants- submit to your masters

Wives- submit to your husbands

Husbands- treasure your wives

Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.

Unity of Mind

Romans 15:5 May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus,

1 Corinthians 1:10 I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

The call to harmony is common in the New Testament. Presumably this admonition and others would be unnecessary if churches were not prone to suffer from division and dissension.

– Thomas Schreiner



Sympathy and brotherly love

Romans 12:15

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep
with those who weep.

1 Corinthians 12:26

If one member suffers, all suffer
together; if one member is honored, all
rejoice together.

1 Peter 1:22 Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart

1 Peter 2:17 Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

1 Peter 5:9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

For where love is wanting, the beauty of all virtue is mere tinsel, is empty sound, is not worth a straw, nay more, is offensive and disgusting.

– John Calvin



Tender Hearted

Ephesians 4:32

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted,
forgiving one another, as God in Christ
forgave you.

Philippians 1:8

For God is my witness, how I yearn for
you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

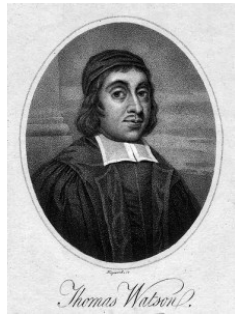
A Humble Mind

Philippians 2:3-4 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

1 Peter 5:5 Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

Look upon your boils and ulcers,
and be humble! Christians are
never more lovely in God's eyes,
than when they are loathsome in
their own; those sins which
humble, shall never damn.

– Thomas Watson



Do not repay evil for evil or reviling
for reviling,

Romans 12:17

Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.

1 Thessalonians 5:15

See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.

Luke 6:28-29

“But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.”

but on the contrary, bless, for to
this you were called

Our Lord God must be a pious man to be able to love rascals. I can't do it, and yet I am a rascal myself.

– Martin Luther



For to this you've been called, that
you may obtain a blessing

For “Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. 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.”

(opening words of Psalm 34)

Of David, when he changed his
behavior before Abimelech, so that
he drove him out, and he went
away.

**Whoever desires to love life and
see good days**

Matthew 16:24-25

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For **whoever would save his life** will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

let him keep his tongue from evil
and his lips from speaking deceit;
let him turn away from evil and do
good; let him seek peace and
pursue it.

A 'good day' in a television beer commercial pictures friends imbibing in the sunset at a fishing lodge. 'It doesn't get any better than this,' they say. A 'good day' in the book of Acts shows Paul and Silas in a Greek prison, their backs bleeding and their feet in stocks. They are singing psalms at midnight— perhaps Psalm 34!

– Edmund Clowney



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.”

Numbers 6:24-26

The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

We are God's new society, a people who have put off the old life and put on the new; that is what he has made us. So we need to recall this by the daily renewal of our minds, thinking Christianly about ourselves and our new status. Then we must actively cultivate a Christian life.

– John Stott

