

Compassion

Riverside Youth Devotional

May 3rd, 2020

1 Peter 3:8-15

⁸ Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.

In the first two chapters of 1 Peter, the letter discusses what it means to live a holy life in response to the hope that is granted us in the resurrection of Jesus. This passage above says that, in conclusion, we should strive to

- a. Be like-minded
- b. Be sympathetic
- c. Love one another
- d. Be compassionate and humble.

We have all had to come together these past couple of months and make sacrifices for the common good. We have made some great strides in Ohio because we have all been like-minded in our efforts to stay home as much as possible and take every precaution when we have to go out. A lot of sacrifices have been made by a lot of people, and that effort has saved a lot of lives.

Like-mindedness is important in many aspects of our lives. As Christians, we have our greatest impact on the world when we focus on what draws us together instead of the things that separate us. We should remain like-minded in our mission to share the gospel of God's grace, mercy, and love.

Where else have you seen this type of commitment to working together? Perhaps in an opportunity you had to serve or volunteer?

We are also called to be sympathetic. We all have our own personal struggles, and it may be hard to understand where others are coming from if we don't take the time to get to learn about theirs. Maya Angelou once said that there is no one we couldn't love after hearing their story. That has always stuck with me- it's worth the time and effort it takes to get to know someone's story and to be sympathetic to their struggles. Empathy is a skill we could all practice more often. It's also important to take it easy on ourselves.

What are some of the things you are struggling with currently?

Loving one another is a concept brought up many times over in the Bible. In fact, Jesus names it as one of the two most important commandments- to love our neighbors as ourselves. We have had a very real opportunity to love our neighbors as ourselves throughout the struggles created by this pandemic. It has not been easy, but it is what we are called to do as people of faith.

How have you seen people loving one another these past couple of months?

Finally, we get to the crux of it all- compassion and humility. We are called to have compassion in a manner that gives the glory to God. In other words, we love because he first loved us. We love others because they are created in God's image, just like we are.

What does that word compassion mean to you?

My prayer for you today comes from 1 Peter 4:8-11

⁸ Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. ⁹ Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.