
The Pursuit of Holiness

The Virtuous Life

*New Hope Community Church
Dr. Jack Bracy, April 22, 2018*

Attitudes That Transform Relationships

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

1 Peter 3:8-9 ESV

“Summing up: Be agreeable, be sympathetic, be loving, be compassionate, be humble. That goes for all of you, no exceptions. No retaliation. No sharp-tongued sarcasm. Instead, bless—that’s your job, to bless. You’ll be a blessing and also get a blessing.” *1 Peter 3:8–9, MSG*

Like Mindedness

To Be in Christ Is to Long for the Mind of Christ

Harmony is Descriptive of a Functional Believer

The Enemy of Harmony Is Self-Advancement

Sympathy

Brotherly Love

Tender Hearted Humble

Commanded to Feel

1. I Confess and Repent of My Sin
2. I Lean Against the Fear of Vulnerability
3. I Submit Myself to The Transforming Power of The Holy Spirit
4. Start Getting Involved with People and Ministry
5. Take Time to See People as Jesus Sees Them

The Relationship Between Getting a Blessing and Giving a Blessing

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 Peter 3:10-12 ESV**

A Life Lived in The Spirit Is Characterized by Grace Rather
Than by A Grudge Toward Those Who Have Wronged Us

1. Because It Is Consistent with The Character of God

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven... For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?” **Matthew 5:43-46, ESV**

2. Because It Is the Evidence of a Changed Life in Christ

“but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.” *James 3:8–12, ESV*

3. Because It Is Consistent with Our Direction

for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing v9b

Bless Those Who Bruise You

Pray for Them

Do Good for Them

Do Not Be Them