

GRACE IS EASY

Wednesday, March 22 | I Peter 3:8-16

In verse 8, 1 Peter tells us to be “like-minded”, “sympathetic”, “compassionate”, and “humble”... all the while “loving one another”. This is so easy!!

It's easy when we're rested and fed. It's easy when our jobs are secure, our bills are paid, our roof doesn't leak, our cars are in working order, our health is good, and our kids are doing well. It's easy to love others when they love us. It's easy to be humble when others recognize our contribution. It's easy to be compassionate and sympathetic when we're a third party not affected by the struggles of others; and it's easy to be like-minded when the group's thinking aligns with our own. But life doesn't work that way.

On any given day, any number of things could be working against us, and to follow these instructions can seem nearly impossible. But this is the work we must be about. When the world is against the good that God desires and Jesus teaches, we must champion that good—even when it's unpopular and when it opens us to insults and condemnation. This can be a lonely and vulnerable place to be. But the path for us love, which requires the dispensing of grace upon those who wish to bring us down because of Christ. When lashed out against, it's our instinct to lash back. But our weapons aren't insults, hate, and violence... the weapons of grace are gentleness and respect (v.15). Being gentle and respectful in the face of aggression and disrespect... hmm... maybe it's not so easy after all.

Prayer: God, grant me courage to do the right thing in the face of evil and indifference. Even when I'm attacked for following you, show me the way to shower grace on those who act out against me because of their own fear and suffering. Help me to see your love for them so that I may show that to them as well. Amen.

Written by Jeff Gehle