

Life Together

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

-Psalm 133:1 (KJV)

¹Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, ² who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood:

Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

Praise to God for a Living Hope

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls...

Be Holy

¹³ Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. ¹⁵ But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶ for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.” ...

I Peter 1:1-16

²² Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. ²³ For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. ²⁴ For,

“All people are like grass,
and all their glory is like the flowers of the field;
the grass withers and the flowers fall,
²⁵ but the word of the Lord endures forever.”

I Peter 1:22-25

The Living Stone and a Chosen People - I Peter 2:4-10

⁴ As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— ⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house[a] to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame.”

⁷ Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,
“The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,”

⁸ and,

“A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

One Body but Many Parts – I Corinthians 12:12-27

¹² There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body. It is the same with Christ. ¹³ We were all baptized by one Holy Spirit. And so we are formed into one body. It didn't matter whether we were Jews or Gentiles, slaves or free people. We were all given the same Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ So the body is not made up of just one part. It has many parts.

¹⁵ Suppose the foot says, “I am not a hand. So I don’t belong to the body.” By saying this, it cannot stop being part of the body. ¹⁶ And suppose the ear says, “I am not an eye. So I don’t belong to the body.” By saying this, it cannot stop being part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, how could it hear? If the whole body were an ear, how could it smell? ¹⁸ God has placed each part in the body just as he wanted it to be. ¹⁹ If all the parts were the same, how could there be a body? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts. But there is only one body.

²¹ The eye can't say to the hand, "I don't need you!" The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you!" ²² In fact, it is just the opposite. The parts of the body that seem to be weaker are the ones we can't do without. ²³ The parts that we think are less important we treat with special honor. The private parts aren't shown. But they are treated with special care. ²⁴ The parts that can be shown don't need special care. But God has put together all the parts of the body. And he has given more honor to the parts that didn't have any. ²⁵ In that way, the parts of the body will not take sides. All of them will take care of one another. ²⁶ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it. If one part is honored, every part shares in its joy.

²⁷ You are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of it.

understanding our identity *in Christ*

II Corinthians 5:17 - ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is *in Christ*, the new creation has come:
The old has gone, the new is here!

understanding our identity *in* *Christ*

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Romans 8:1 - Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are *in Christ*
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Galatians 3:26-28; 4:7 - ²⁶ So *in Christ Jesus* you are all children of God through faith, ²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

getting practical

1) Gather Together

getting practical

Gather Together

Hebrews 10:25 – Forsake not the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

getting practical

1) Gather together

2) Read the word together

getting practical

Read the word together - "The Christian needs another Christian who speaks God's Word to him." -Bonhoeffer

I Timothy 4:13b – devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and teaching.

Hebrews 4:12 – For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

II Timothy 3:16-17 – All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work

Romans 10:17 – So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

getting practical

- 1) Gather together
- 2) Read the word together
- 3) Sing together

getting practical

Sing together –

Col. 3:16 – Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

I Cor 14:26 – What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a psalm or teaching, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done to build up the church.

getting practical

- 1) Gather together
- 2) Read the word together
- 3) Sing together
- 4) Pray together

getting practical

Pray together –

Matthew 18:20 – for where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.

Romans 15:5-6 - May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

getting practical

- 1) Gather together
- 2) Read the word together
- 3) Sing together
- 4) Pray together
- 5) Work together

getting practical

Work together

Col. 3:17 – 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Col 3:23-24 - 23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

getting practical

- 1) Gather together
- 2) Read the word together
- 3) Sing together
- 4) Pray together
- 5) Work together
- 6) Eat together

getting practical

Eat together

Luke 24:30-31 - 30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight.

Luke 14:15 – Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God

getting practical

- 1) Gather together
- 2) Read the word together
- 3) Sing together
- 4) Pray together
- 5) Work together
- 6) Eat together
- 7) Confess to each other

getting practical

Confess to each other

James 5:16 – Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

1 John 1:9 – If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

getting practical

- 1) Gather together
- 2) Read the word together
- 3) Sing together
- 4) Pray together
- 5) Work together
- 6) Eat together
- 7) Confess to each other
- 8) Communion together

getting practical

Communion together

I Cor 10:14-17 - ¹⁴ Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry. ¹⁵ I speak to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. ¹⁶ Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? ¹⁷ Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf..

getting practical

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Life Together

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