

Favored Family Response Guide

1 Peter 3:8-12

Bethany Assembly of God

8/23/2020

- Do you think of the church as your family? Why or why not?
- In what ways has the church been like a family for you? How have you acted like family toward others in the church?
- What are some qualities of a “literal family,” a family by blood, that also apply to our church family?
- How does strengthening our family fit with our vision to *ReNew Hospitality*?
- Read 1 Peter 8:10-12. What promises does God make to those who turn from evil and do good with their lips and their lives?

Big Idea: You can help make Bethany a favored family.

1. You must have a unified, sympathetic, loving, tender, humble attitude.

- Read 1 Peter 3:8.
- What does it mean to be “like-minded” and why is that important for a church?
 - Does having the “same mind” or “unity of mind” mean that everyone thinks the same about everything?
 - How does being “Outsiders” in this world magnify the need for being united in our thinking?

Like-mindedness in Christ is a foundational value in Christian community because it unites people from various backgrounds, races, economic standing, and people coming from widely varying previous religious experience, not around common customs and preferences, but around a common way of seeing the world through Jesus.

- How should unity of mind affect your relationships with others in this family?
- Sympathy literally means, “suffer with.” Why is this an important characteristic of a family?

- How can you effectively “suffer with” brothers and sisters in Christ?
- Whose burdens are you currently helping to lift?
- Brotherly love is another characteristic attitude of a favored family. Essentially, Peter means that we should treat our church like family.
 - What prevents you from treating the church like a family? Are you waiting for others to love you first? What if you took that initial step to love them?
 - Are you concerned that loving your church like a family will leave you open to increased pain? Why might it be worth it?
- Tenderheartedness is the same as compassion and means that you approach other members of the family with gentleness, not harshness.
 - As a family member, you have the best interests of your family at heart. Tenderheartedness is how you show them that you have their best interests at heart!
 - How can you help create warmth in our interactions as a family?
- The final characteristic of this family attitude is a humble mind.
 - Perhaps you’ve thought about humility in general, but what do you think it means to be “humble minded”?
 - Humble mindedness is humility applied to how you think about your family members. Do you assume the best about them? Do you think of them as more important than yourself? Can you receive correction or criticism without growing bitter? Can you be presumed upon without being offended?

2. You must bless when you’re cursed.

- Read 1 Peter 3:9. How does the kind of reaction Peter describes separate Christians from the world and make us “Outsiders”?

Trouble tests the truth of your testimony.

- What does it mean to bless someone who curses or hurts you?

By blessing we are to understand ‘seeking the highest good’ of others, that is, by what we are and what we say advancing, not setting back, what God intends in his perfect plan for them.

- Norman Hillyer

- Slander, gossip, and generally speaking evil about others is one of the easiest things to justify when you feel hurt. How can you follow the example of Jesus who did not revile even when He was mocked and falsely accused? How can you overcome that internal urge to blurt something out about the person who hurt you?
- Are you holding on to any bitterness or unforgiveness right now, especially toward someone in the church family? How could you seek to bless them today? Could you speak a good word about them? Could you repay them good for evil?

Conclusion

- The result of these attitudes for the family of God is “that you may obtain a blessing.” That is, we will be a favored family if we put these attitudes into action.
- Help Bethany be a favored family, a place of blessing. Have a unified, sympathetic, loving, tender, humble attitude. Bless when you’re cursed. Lay down your right to be right. Let go of bitterness over what someone did or said. Forgive. Look for opportunities to benefit those who have hurt you. Speak well of them. Emulate your Savior who did not retaliate when persecuted nor revile when mocked. In so doing, we will become a family where God’s favor is evident to all.