

1 Peter 3:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:

Analysis

Peter summarizes mutual Christian conduct. "Finally, be ye all of one mind" (to de telos pantes homophrones)—unity in thought and purpose. "Having compassion one of another" (sympatheis)—sympathetic, sharing feelings. "Love as brethren" (philadelphoi)—brotherly affection for fellow Christians. "Be pitiful" (eusplanch noi)—tender-hearted, compassionate. "Be courteous" (philophrones)—friendly, kind-minded. These five qualities promote Christian community unity and love. This applies to all believers, not just married couples, creating harmonious Christian fellowship characterized by mutual love and sympathy.

Historical Context

Early church comprised diverse members—Jews/Gentiles, slaves/free, rich/poor, men/women—creating potential for conflict. Peter's call to unity, compassion, and mutual love addressed real tensions. These virtues distinguished Christian communities from status-obsessed Roman society. The church's visible love attracted converts (John 13:35, 'by this shall all men know'). Early church fathers emphasized that Christian unity and mutual love demonstrated gospel's transforming power more effectively than apologetic arguments alone.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Which of these five virtues (unity, compassion, brotherly love, tender-heartedness, courtesy) most challenges your current relationships in church?
2. How does Christian community's visible love and unity serve as evangelistic witness?

Interlinear Text

Tò	δὲ	τέλος	πάντες	όμόφρονες	συμπαθεῖς
G3588	Finally	G5056	be ye all	of one mind	having compassion one of another
	G1161		G3956	G3675	G4835
 φιλάδελφοι εὖσπλαγχνοι φιλόφρονες·					
love as brethren		be pitiful	be courteous		
G5361		G2155		G5391	

Additional Cross-References

Romans 12:10 (Love): Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

1 Peter 1:22 (Love): Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

James 3:17 (Parallel theme): But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

Ephesians 4:2 (Love): With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

Zechariah 7:9 (Parallel theme): Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Execute true judgment, and shew mercy and compassions every man to his brother:

Colossians 3:12 (Love): Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

Matthew 18:33 (Parallel theme): Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?

1 Corinthians 12:26 (Parallel theme): And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

Acts 4:32 (Parallel theme): And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.

1 John 3:14 (Love): We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.