

1 Peter 3:8-10

Verse 8

In verses 8-9, Peter is summarizing the actions and characteristics of a believer. Paul discusses similar characteristics in **Romans 12:9-21**. The actions of a believer are to be different than that of the non-believer and will be considered peculiar to the non-believer many times.

- Harmonious: This means like mindedness/unity
 - **Psalm 133:1-3** Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brothers to dwell together in unity! ² It is like the precious oil upon the head, Coming down upon the beard, *Even Aaron's beard*, Coming down upon the edge of his robes. ³ It is like the dew of Hermon Coming down upon the mountains of Zion; For there the Lord commanded the blessing—life forever.
 - **2 Corinthians 13:11** Finally, brethren, ^[a]rejoice, ^[b]be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.
- Sympathetic: Referring to compassion
 - **Romans 12:15** Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.
 - **Colossians 3:12** So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and ^[b]patience;
- Brotherly: Showing love the brethren
 - **1 Peter 1:22** Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a ^[a]sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from ^[b]the heart,
 - **1 John 3:14** We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.
- Kind Hearted: Also meaning tenderhearted
 - **Ephesians 4:32** Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven ^[a]you.
- Humble in spirit
 - **Philippians 2:1-3** Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any ^[a]affection and compassion, ² make my joy complete ^[b]by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. ³ Do nothing ^[c]from ^[d]selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;
 - **1 Peter 5:5** You younger men, likewise, be subject to *your* elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

Verse 9

Peter has already given instruction on how Christians are to respond (**1 Peter 2:12-23**) when we are slandered or treated unjustly. We are to look to Christ as our example and not sin in our responses. We are called to not repay evil for evil or take revenge into our own hands, but rather to entrust ourselves to the One who judges, avenges, and vindicates perfectly. Called for this very purpose (salvation and persecution/suffering) to obtain an inheritance.

A blessing rather than a cursing

- **Romans 12:17** Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. ^[a]Respect what is right in the sight of all men.
- 1 Corinthians 4:12 and we toil, working with our own hands; when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure;
- **1 Thessalonians 5:15** See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.

- **Matthew 5:9-16** “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.¹⁰ “Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.¹¹ “Blessed are you when *people* insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.¹³ “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how ^[a]can it be made salty *again*? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city set on a ^[b]hill cannot be hidden; ¹⁵ nor does *anyone* light a lamp and put it under a ^[c]basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.
- **Luke 6:26-36** Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for their fathers used to ^[a]treat the false prophets in the same way.²⁷ “But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who ^[b]mistreat you. ²⁹ Whoever hits you on the cheek, offer him the other also; and whoever takes away your ^[c]coat, do not withhold your ^[d]shirt from him either. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks of you, and whoever takes away what is yours, do not demand it back. ³¹ ^[e]Treat others the same way you want ^[f]them ^[g]to treat you. ³² If you love those who love you, what credit is *that* to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is *that* to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is *that* to you? Even sinners lend to sinners in order to receive back the same *amount*. ³⁵ But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, ^[h]expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil *men*. ³⁶ ^[i]Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.
- **Matthew 5:44** But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. (Blessing in prayer)

Called for this very purpose

- **Ephesians 4:1-4** Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, ³ being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling;

Verse 10

In verses 10-12, Peter is quoting **Psalm 34:12-16** in these verses. Peter is instructing Christians to love and desire life as well as good days. He then states that for this to happen one must keep their tongue from evil and lips from speaking deceit which is also compared to turning away from evil and do good. The Christian is also to seek and pursue peace which is related to keeping his tongue from evil and speaking deceit.

Desiring life and good days

Christians are to love life as each day has been given as a gift from God for His sovereign purpose, will, and pleasure. We are to enjoy the blessing that we have been given by God and live our lives as ambassadors for Him. Although our lives can be filled with struggles, heartaches, and trials we are to embrace and cherish those days as they are gifts from God as well as they are refining our faith. Peter will state that to live as peaceably on earth as possible with good days it will require one to guard their tongue from evil and deceit.

The Bible puts a heavy emphasis on the tongue.

The Greek word for Devil is “diabolos” which means slander which involves the tongue. The devil is referred to as a liar and the father of lies (**John 8:44**). As a Christian, our father is not the devil and we should not speak with deceit, malice, or slander like the devil.

Paul gives us the state of the unregenerate person in **Romans 3:10-18**. Paul mentions that their tongues keep deceiving, the poison of asps is under their lips and their whole mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.

- o **Romans 3:10-18** as it is written, “There is none righteous, not even one; ¹¹ There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for God; ¹² All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does good, There is not even one.” ¹³ “Their throat is an open grave, With their tongues they keep deceiving,” “The poison of asps is under their lips”; ¹⁴ “Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness”; ¹⁵ “Their feet are swift to shed blood, ¹⁶ Destruction and misery are in their paths, ¹⁷ And the path of peace they have not known.” ¹⁸ “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

James 3 discusses how powerful and deadly the tongue is.

- o **James 3:1-12** Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a ^[a]stricter judgment. ² For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in ^[b]what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well. ³ Now if we put the bits into the horses’ mouths so that they will obey us, we direct their entire body as well. ⁴ Look at the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder wherever the inclination of the pilot desires. ⁵ So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! ⁶ And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our ^[c]life, and is set on fire by ^[d]hell. ⁷ For every ^[e]species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human ^[f]race. ⁸ But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; ¹⁰ from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way. ¹¹ Does a fountain send out from the same opening both ^[g]fresh and bitter water? ¹² Can a fig tree, my brethren, produce olives, or a vine produce figs? Nor can salt water produce ^[h]fresh.

In Isaiah 6, Isaiah has a vision of the Lord and when he sees the Lord in His glory, his first acknowledgment is that he ruined and a man of unclean lips. He will also state that he lives among a people of unclean lips.

- o **Isaiah 6:1-7** In the year of King Uzziah’s death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. ² Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ And one called out to another and said, “Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, The ^[a]whole earth is full of His glory.” ⁴ And the ^[b]foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the ^[c]temple was filling with smoke. ⁵ Then I said, “Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.” ⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. ⁷ He touched my mouth with it and said, “Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is ^[d]forgiven.”

Our words are either a sword or a stitch. We can make and open wounds or we can stitch wounds with our words. However, the greatest stitch and healing of wounds is not our words, but the words of God! (**Psalm 147:3**)