

Trinity Sunday ~ Sunday, June 16, 2019  
“A Living Hope: Experiencing the Better Life”  
1 Peter 3:8-12

“Jesus included everyone in his death so everyone could be included in his life—a far better life than people lived on their own.” (2 Corinthians 5:15)

“So I hated life, because what is done under the sun was grievous to me; for all is vanity and a chasing after wind.” (Ecclesiastes 2:17)

What if there’s something \_\_\_\_\_? What if beyond the good life that the world offers, there’s an even \_\_\_\_\_ life?

The problem with the good life is that it can keep us from \_\_\_\_\_ something better—it fools us into thinking that we’re \_\_\_\_\_, yet under the surface we feel anything but happiness. Underneath the good life, many people are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

“Have you settled for second best—have you settled for the good life—for far less than God has for you?”

#### 4 THINGS THAT WE NEED TO EXPERIENCE THE BETTER LIFE

#1. We need the right \_\_\_\_\_.

“Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind.” (1 Peter 3:8)

#### 5 SPIRITUAL VIRTUES

• **Believers are to live in \_\_\_\_\_ with each other.**  
Harmony = *homophron* =

Peter is calling for \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_.

“Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 2:5)

The church is the body of Christ, and in Christ, and with His \_\_\_\_\_, we can have a unity that \_\_\_\_\_ secondary issues—we can rise above the things that divide us. If we keep our focus on \_\_\_\_\_ and His Word, we can disagree on many things and still live in harmony with one another. We can have unity in the midst of \_\_\_\_\_.

• **We are to be \_\_\_\_\_ to each other.**  
Sympathy = *sumpatheis* =

We shouldn’t be \_\_\_\_\_, callous, indifferent, or cynical about the suffering we see around us, but come along side people with empathy and declare God’s saving \_\_\_\_\_.

“Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.” (Romans 12:15)

• **We are to love each other as \_\_\_\_\_.**  
Brother = *philadelphoi* =

We are called to get \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves and not only to love our brothers and sisters in Christ, but \_\_\_\_\_ that love in acts of service.

“Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.” (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

• **We are to be \_\_\_\_\_.**  
Tender heart = *eusplagchnoi* =

Peter calls us to have deep \_\_\_\_\_ for those in need; to care enough to get involved in the lives of others.

“We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God’s Good News but our own lives, too.” (2 Thessalonians 2:8)

• **We are called to be \_\_\_\_\_.**  
Humility = *tapeinophron* =

True humility isn’t thinking \_\_\_\_\_ of yourself; true humility is \_\_\_\_\_ thinking of yourself at all.

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.” (Philippians 2:3)

**Do you have the right attitude?**

**How well do you demonstrate these 5 virtues in your life?**

#2. We need the right \_\_\_\_\_.

“Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing.” (9)

A godly approach to life incorporates not only the right action motivated by the right attitude, but the proper reaction when \_\_\_\_\_.

• **We are not to \_\_\_\_\_ when we’re attacked.**  
“...But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous.” (Matthew 5:38-45)

- **We are to \_\_\_\_\_ those who mistreat us.**

“Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.” (Luke 6:27-28)

It is possible in our own strength not to repay evil for evil. By the exercise of our own \_\_\_\_\_ and sheer will power. However, we’ll never be able to bless those who hurt us in our own \_\_\_\_\_—only \_\_\_\_\_ can do that.

There is great freedom in being \_\_\_\_\_ with God—after all, He knows how we feel anyway! And when we begin to pray this way, our feelings slowly begin to \_\_\_\_\_. It all depends on our relationship with the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Do you have the right response? When you receive an email that makes you angry, are you quick to write an angry reply? Do you live in anger and bitterness toward others for days on end? Or do you pray for your enemies?**

### #3. We need the right \_\_\_\_\_.

“For, those who desire life and desire to see good days, let them keep their tongues from evil and their lips from speaking deceit; let them turn away from evil and do good; let them seek peace and pursue it.” (1 Peter 3:10-11)

## 3 STANDARDS WE ARE CALLED TO LIVE BY

- **Keep your tongue from \_\_\_\_\_.**

“With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so.” (James 3:9-10)

Our mouths have the power to bless and curse; and there are \_\_\_\_\_ to the things we say. We need to seek to, with God’s help, to speak words that bless and not curse; words that \_\_\_\_\_ and not harm; words that \_\_\_\_\_ and not tear down.

- **Keep your lips from \_\_\_\_\_ speech.**

We must commit to speaking only the \_\_\_\_\_ and being opposed to all lying, deception, \_\_\_\_\_.

“Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices...” (Colossians 3:9)

Before we can do this, it’s important we understand that these matters of speech are controlled, not at the mouth, but on the inside—in the \_\_\_\_\_.

“For whatever is in your heart determines what you say.” (Matthew 12:34)

- The last standard consists of four quick \_\_\_\_\_.

- “**...turn from \_\_\_\_\_**...”

**Turn away = *ekklinato*** = an intensely strong rejection of what’s sinful.

- “**...do \_\_\_\_\_,**” = those things that are \_\_\_\_\_ in quality and express deep-down \_\_\_\_\_.

- “**...seek \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ it.**”

Both verbs convey intense and aggressive \_\_\_\_\_

**Peace = *eirene*** = describes a constant inner condition of \_\_\_\_\_ that produces permanent \_\_\_\_\_ and happiness, no matter what’s happening around us.

As believers, we called to aggressively seek peace, even with those who persecute us—we’re to be known in the world as \_\_\_\_\_ who strive for harmony with others as much as possible, without compromising God’s \_\_\_\_\_.

**Do you have the right standard? How do you manage your mouth?**

**Do you turn from evil, do good, and pursue peace in your life?**

### #4. We need the right \_\_\_\_\_.

“For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.” (1 Peter 3:12)

“When we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son.” (Romans 5:10)

We are, by nature, born \_\_\_\_\_ and we come into this world as the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. Despite this, God in His \_\_\_\_\_ loved us. God \_\_\_\_\_ us to Himself in the death of His Son; and suddenly, by grace, we became the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

We could never \_\_\_\_\_ God for what He’s done for us in Christ. However, We can do for \_\_\_\_\_ what God has done for us. We can \_\_\_\_\_ our enemies the way God loved us when we were His enemies.

Don’t give into anger, don’t give way to despair. Instead, give \_\_\_\_\_ for your enemies. They didn’t come into your life by accident—God intends to use them to help you \_\_\_\_\_ more like Jesus and to teach you to trust Him. And He intends to use you to \_\_\_\_\_ them!

**Do you have the right incentive? Do you want the Lord’s eyes on you and His ears open to your prayer? Do you love and pray for your enemies?**