



## The Cycle of Grace | 1 Peter 3:8-12

Peter begins these verses with the word “finally.” He is summarizing and generalizing what he’s discussed in the previous sections.

Specifically, we live “beautiful lives” (cf. 2:12) as we move toward those who have hurt us. Peter shares how a “gracious” life is cultivated by talking about the qualities that should define our community. Then, he speaks of the specific actions that express grace. Finally, he walks us through the motivation.

If we’re honest (please do be honest!!!), what are the common objections to forgiving others?

### **READ/REFLECT**

**1 Peter 3:8-12** ... read through these verses.

In verse 8, we find five character qualities or attitudes that should typify the community of Christ. The first and last qualities speak of a mindset (unity and humility).

What does it look like to have a mindset of community versus a mindset of individuality?  
How do unity of mind (pursuing a common goal) and humility of mind (pursuing the best for others) cultivate a gracious community?

The idea of the word “sympathy” is “believing that everyone has a story.” What is the difference between believing that someone has a story and seeing them as a “static” person?

The words “brotherly love” and “tender heart” are family words. What does a mindset of seeing your church community as family mean?

In verse 9, Peter gives a negative and a positive challenge. How can we be sure that we don’t retaliate? How can we bless others? What makes this so difficult? How does community help?

How do we “obtain a blessing” when we choose to bless rather than retaliate?

Discuss the connection between our relationship with God and others.

In verses 10-12, Peter quotes from Psalm 34. Read those verses from Psalm 34 and discuss the specific blessings that come when we choose to give grace and let God be God?

### **RESPOND**

What specifically will you take away from this passage? How and when will you apply that truth?

### **REACH OUT** in prayer

Ask each person in the group to share how others can pray for them to apply these truths to their lives.