



**Mutual Submission**  
**1 Peter 3:8-12**  
**Week of March 31, 2019**

**Objective of this study:**

To understand the call of Jesus on our lives, that our relationships would be healthy and full of love and unity for the sake of the Gospel, so that others would believe Jesus is who we say he is.

[Remember, the main goal of each Growth Group is to allow God's Word to change your heart so that others would see Jesus in you and be likewise changed to be like him. He wants to change the world through us.]

**Welcome (5 minutes)**

Growing up, what kinds of things did you practice and get good at (or not)?

**Worship (5 – 10 minutes)**

1. Sing a song or two of praise and thanksgiving to God.
2. Spend five minutes in silence asking God to prepare your heart for how he wants to speak to you.
3. After the five minutes have someone interrupt the silence and read **Psalm 145:8-9 and then Colossians 3:12** meditatively to the group. Pause after each phrase letting God speak to you. **Did anything "jump out at you"?**

[It's really important when doing this study that we each think about ourselves specifically and ways we need to grow, not how Christians in general need to grow. Do the hard work of letting the Holy Spirit speak to *your* heart.]

**Word/Work (60-90 minutes)**

1. What stood out from the sermon?
2. Read 1 Peter 3:8-12.

Remember, Peter was writing to believers who were experiencing a lot of persecution for their faith. He wrote to encourage them and give them guidance on how to live in their difficult situation, in a society that was against them. He wrote to point his readers to Jesus, and to help them point their unbelieving neighbors, bosses, spouses, etc. to Jesus.

**Sermon quotes:** "God's call for us all is that our families, and hence the church, would be used as channels of God's grace to a broken world."

"For the sake of the Gospel of Jesus, Peter tells us to learn to love each other as brothers and sisters in Christ."

"All growth comes from our interaction with others. The problem is that we live with the tension that our wounds also come from interaction with others."

3. This passage is full of instructions on how to get along. Look for the verbs. Make a list of all the things Peter instructs his readers to do.

**Sermon quote:** “Unity is so precarious. I have a hard enough time being unified in my own mind. If you add one or more people with me it gets exponentially more difficult.”

4. What does unity mean, and what does it not mean? What are some misconceptions about unity? Why is it so important for us to work on building unity in our families and in our church?

5. How does listening purposefully to each other help build unity, and help us love each other?

What are some things that make it hard for you to listen well to others?

Think of times when you have been **heard** by someone who really listened to your heart. How has that benefited you? Also think of times when you’ve been the listener and things turned out either well or not so well. What happened? What did you learn?

**Sermon quote:** “Stay humble. Purposefully humble yourself. That takes an act of the will.”

6. What does it mean to have a humble attitude? What does humility mean and what does it not mean? What are specific ways we can practice having a humble attitude?

7. Verse 9 takes loving each other to a challenging level. This is beyond being nice to nice people, or not returning nastiness for nastiness. Peter is calling us to return a blessing for nastiness.

**Sermon quote:** “It’s easy to love nice people. But, not everyone is nice. Jesus has called us to love even people who are not nice to us. That is not natural for us. It takes practice. It takes an act of the will that goes against our very strong drive towards self-preservation.”

What specific “favorite activities” does this rule out? When you feel hurt or misunderstood, what’s your natural go-to response? What is Jesus nudging you to do instead?

8. We’ve often heard Pastor Jeff say “We can’t coast to maturity. It takes effort.” Each item discussed in today’s study requires effort and practice. Which things specifically is the Holy Spirit nudging you to practice this week?

**Sermon quote:** “Jesus has called us, his church at CRBC, to be transformed into something glorious so he can reach our city through his love. We have a purpose higher than existing.”

### Prayer

1. Spend the rest of the time praying for each other. **Praise God together for how he works, and how he allows us to partner with him to accomplish things in his kingdom.**

2. Here are some things you can pray about for the church:

A. That, as a church, we would actively and purposefully engage in the mission of Jesus in Campbell River.

B. Pastor Jeff and Ruthie as they continue to recover from exhaustion.

B. Our church board and staff as they lead us to live out the mission of Jesus

C. River Kids ministry as they reach out to kids in our community.

D. **Our missionary of the week:** Luc and Denise Tetreault, with the Fellowship. (Check out the church website for how to pray for them.)

E. **Local CR church:** Church of the Way, Pastors Rick and Brenda Shuttleworth.

**Radiant Life March Drive** - Men’s and women’s underwear, socks, and Depends. Yes, all of these need to be new.

