



PETER

THE DISCIPLE MAKER

Daily Devotions and Small Group Discussion Questions | Week Six

This Week's Memory Verse

..to keep in your pocket, memorize, and hide in your heart:

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood,
a holy nation, a people for his own possession,
that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you
out of darkness into his marvelous light.

- 1 Peter 2:9 (ESV)

Week Six, Day Five

Scripture Reading

Romans 12:9-21; Philippians 2:1-11

Devotional Reading

We've read this week in the second chapter of 1 Peter that we are to keep our, "conduct among the Gentiles honorable," to, "honor everyone," and to, "love the brotherhood." This section is a beautiful, high calling, and one that clearly states the, "will of God."

If only it were so simple!

Is it really possible to, "honor everyone?" Don't some people deserve to be dishonored? The man who hurt you, the woman who stole from you, the boy who killed or the girl who lied? Sometimes our lives are incalculably altered; sometimes our feelings are deeply hurt.

This passage in Romans shares similar sentiments to those in 1 Peter, and also gives some insight into how we should live when this high calling seems impossible: "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Are we really to, "bless those who persecute?" When faced with such difficult circumstances, sometimes the only example we can look towards is the one Jesus set before us all the way to the cross. "He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

Of course these passages are not suggesting we stay in a harmful environment or allow others to routinely mistreat us. But in our hearts, our attitudes and our actions, let us strive to, "outdo one another in showing honor."

Faith In Action

Are there people in your life to whom you struggle to show honor? Perhaps they have hurt your feelings, annoy you or haven't shown you honor in return. Think through what it would look like to show this person honor and love. Discuss with a friend or mentor, pray for strength, and take a step toward overcoming evil with good.

Today's Prayer

Jesus, thank you for the example you have given us of honoring and loving others, especially when it isn't deserved. You have forgiven me of so much; please help me to heal and begin to show forgiveness and honor to those who I struggle with. Soften the parts of my heart that are hardened to even the idea of blessing those who have hurt me or others. Your grace knows no bounds.