



1 Peter 3:8-12

STILL STANDING - Apr 19, 2026

Message Recap

Some of the hardest battles we face aren't external, but internal. People can trigger reactions that tempt us toward bitterness, retaliation, or pride. But Peter reminds us that we don't control what others do, we control what it does in us. God shows us that our responses create the atmosphere we live in. We can invite peace, healing, and "heaven" into our relationships, or we can fuel conflict and dysfunction.

This passage challenges us to live with humility, compassion, and self-control, refusing to repay evil with evil and instead choosing blessing. It also reminds us that our words shape our lives, and that God sees, hears, and responds to how we live, even when it feels like nothing is changing.

Icebreaker / Personal Reflection

- **Icebreaker:**
Would you rather take a year-long backpacking trip around the world or spend a month living in luxury at a five-star resort?
- **Reflection:**
What part of the message resonated with you the most?

Discussion Questions

- **Why do you think relational conflict tends to bring out reactions in us that don't reflect who we want to be?**
- **Which of the qualities in 1 Peter 3:8 (unity, sympathy, love, compassion, humility) is hardest for you right now? Why?**
- **What's the difference between "loving" someone and "liking" them? Why is that distinction important?**
- **Why do you think we naturally "repay evil with evil"? What makes choosing blessing so difficult?**
- **What does it look like to "seek peace and pursue it" instead of just avoiding conflict?**
- **Have you ever felt like doing the right thing didn't change the situation? How does this passage encourage you in that?**

For Additional Study

James 3:5–10 NIV

- What do these verses reveal about the power of the tongue?
- How does this passage challenge the way you speak about or to others?

Romans 12:17–21 NIV

- What does it mean to “overcome evil with good” in real-life situations?
- How could applying this passage change a current or recent conflict in your life?