



2,000 years ago, out of fire and blood, arose the most diverse and dynamic family that the world has ever seen. Originally known as "The Way", this band of brothers and sisters discovered their true identity in their leader, Jesus of Nazareth. After his death and resurrection, their movement multiplied as they welcomed people of every nation and race. Amidst this explosion, men like Peter wrote letters to encourage other believers who faced hostility from all sides. Two millennia later, these letters continue to inspire Christians in every corner of the world. For 10 weeks (Aug 18-Oct 20) at The Story we'll explore the letter known as *1 Peter* to discover our true identity and purpose together.

September 22, 2024 - How to Love Like Jesus

Reflection Question: *What makes some people so hard to love?*

In *1 Peter* 3:8-16, Peter shared four things that every Christian must have in order to love the people around us the way that Jesus first loved us.

1. STRONG _____

1 Peter 3:8 - Finally, all of you, be like-minded...

What does being "like-minded" mean, and what does it *not* mean?

(See Philippians 2:5-11)

What sorts of things can Christians disagree about?

What must we always agree about?

2. SOFT _____

1 Peter 3:8 - ...be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.

What do words like *sympathetic* and *compassionate* literally mean?

How did Jesus love people with sympathy and compassion? Can you think of any examples from the Gospels?

What would it look like for Christians to love each other with *sympathy* and *compassion*?

3. THICK _____

1 Peter 3:9, 13-15- Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord.

Why do Christians sometimes need "thick skin" to love people like Jesus does?

Name a few examples of the ways Jesus loved difficult, hateful people this way.

What are some ways you've blessed angry, disrespectful people in your life?

4. GENTLE _____

1 Peter 3:15-16 - Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...

What practical difference does it make to live in this world with the HOPE of Jesus Christ?

Does your life - your demeanor, words, and actions - reflect the hope of Jesus to the people around you? If so, how? If not, why not?

If someone asked you tomorrow to give the reason for the hope that you have, what would you say?

Why is it so important to answer "with gentleness and respect"? What are some practical ways that Christians can do that?

Your Notes: