

**By continuing to LOVE one another.**

‘Above all, keep loving one another earnestly...’ (v. 8)

‘...since love covers a multitude of sins.’

**By being HOSPITABLE to one another.**

‘Show hospitality to one another...’ (v. 9)

‘...without grumbling.’

**By SERVING each other.**

‘serve one another...’ (v. 10)

as each has received a gift, use it...

as good stewards of God’s varied grace...

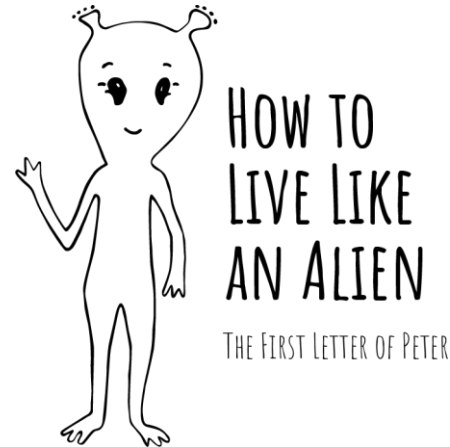
whoever speaks...

whoever serves...

‘...in order that in everything God may be glorified...’ (v. 11)

through Jesus Christ

to him belong glory and dominion forever and ever



Sunday, September 25, 2022

**How to Live Like an Alien**

The First Letter of Peter

**No. 23 – Staying Close to One Another**

**1 Peter 4:7-11**

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**Review**

The apostle Peter, writing to Christians who are both *elect* and *exiles*, encourages them to live faithfully...

- Praising God for Our Salvation (1:3-12)
- Setting Our Hope on God (1:13-21)
- Growing in God's Word (1:22-2:3)
- Being Built Up as a Spiritual House (2:4-8, 9-10)
- Keeping Our Conduct Honorable as God's People (2:9-10, 11-12)
  - Being Subject as Citizens to Human Authorities (2:13-17)
  - Being Subject as Servants to Our Masters (2:18-25)
  - Being Subject as Wives to Their Husbands (3:1-6)
  - Being Considerate as Husbands to Their Wives (3:7)
  - Being Considerate as Believers to Each Other (3:8-12)
  - Being Committed to Doing Good No Matter What (3:13-17)
- Christ's suffering gives us confidence to face our suffering (3:18-22)
- Christ's suffering gives us determination to cease from sinning (4:1-6)
- Staying Close to One Another (4:7-11)

**No. 23 – Staying Close to One Another**

**1 Peter 4:7-11**

ESV **1 Peter 4** <sup>7</sup>The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. <sup>8</sup>Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. <sup>9</sup>Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. <sup>10</sup>As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: <sup>11</sup>whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies- in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

## Staying Close to One Another...

### We must stay close to one another... (4:7-11)

...as the end draws nearer and nearer  
...in light of the many and varied difficulties we may face in this life

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### 'The end of all things is at hand; therefore ...' (v. 7)

#### but (or moreover)...

- This passage wraps up the middle section of 1 Peter (2:11-4:11).

*What does Peter say on the heels of a passage full of suffering?*

- This (vv. 7-11) is how we can share in and with each other's suffering
- No one's suffering automatically eliminates the responsibility to fulfill the instruction of this passage (vv. 7-11)
- This passage is eschatologically-shaped.
- This passage focuses on key corporate responsibilities.
  - 'one another,' (3x)
- This passage fittingly connects right living with doxology.

### 'The end (telos) of all things...'

*The end of the section?*

*The end of the letter?*

*The end of their lives?*

*The end of human history?*

...him who is ready to judge the living and the dead (4:5)  
...(they may) glorify God on the day of visitation (2:12)  
...brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ (1:13)  
...result in (glory) at the revelation of Jesus Christ (1:7)

### 'is at hand (or drawing near)...

the last time (1:5)  
the last times (1:20) > ...(drawing near)... > the revelation of Christ (1:7)  
the end of all things (4:7)

### 'therefore...'

- Paul's instruction (vv. 7-11) intentionally draws on his opening sentence ('The end of all things...').
- His instruction (vv. 7-11) all works together, though it comes across as a sort of bullet-point list.
- We should properly contextualize his instruction in order to be motivated to fulfill it:
  - most of us know this instruction...
  - probably all of us would agree that this instruction is important...
  - we all can become rather anesthetized to this instruction...
  - if we're not careful, we can easily excuse ourselves from this instruction...
- We should approach his instruction as that which can lose steam, but which should be prioritized as the end draws nearer and nearer, and we experience suffering for being a Christian.

## How should we stay close to one another?

### By being mentally disciplined for PRAYER.

'be self-controlled and sober-minded...' (v. 7)

'...for the sake of your prayers.'

#### Example:

That Peter connects PRAYER with mental discipline and the end drawing near (not least of which, too, the way we love, show hospitality, and serve one another), indicates that:

...PRAYER (and praying with and for each other) can diminish progressively over time, especially as we anticipate the end drawing near;  
...PRAYER can be impacted by the way we mentally discipline ourselves;  
...THE END can impact the way we mentally discipline ourselves, which can impact our praying;  
...THE WAY WE love, show hospitality, and serve one another can impact the way we mentally discipline ourselves, which can impact our praying.