

# Sermon Reflections

---

*Otherworldly Witnesses (Walking by the Spirit)* 1 Peter 3:8-17

Guest Teacher: Stephen Boom, Grace Elder, Associate Pastor (Youth Ministries)

**Summary:** Display otherworldly hope to a hostile world by your kindness and confidence in Jesus.

**Three marks of an otherworldly witness:**

## 1. Faithfully Love God's Family – Instead of Keeping Distant (v. 8)

- 1 Peter 3:8 lists five qualities that should be found in the Body of Christ. The first of these is **unity of mind**. What does it mean for Christians to have unity? What does it not mean? How do Christians gain unity? What are some hindrances to Christian unity, and how are they overcome? Define **sympathy**. See the example in Romans 12:15. Do you struggle to sympathize with others? If you find this to be the case, what Biblical truth(s) could you meditate on to pursue growing in Christlikeness?
- What is **brotherly love**? In what ways are you seeking to do your brothers and sisters spiritual and physical good? What does it mean to have a **tender heart**? How is Christ our example in this? Define what it is to have a **humble mind**.
- What/Who is necessary (*think about the current sermon series*) for God's people to put these five qualities into practice? Stephen Boom asked, "Are you spiritually encouraged by, and encouraging anyone?" What are some ways you can start to, or excel more in, faithfully loving the Body of Christ at GBC?

## 2. Find Ways to Bless Others – Instead of Getting Even (vv. 9-12)

- What does Peter instruct the believers to do when reviled? What does it mean to bless others? As believers what is our confidence in living this way? In what ways have you experienced the blessing of greater enjoyment of God through obedience to His Word? See Psalm 34. How does David serve as an example for living in this way?
- Looking back on your own life, have you ever regretted obeying God? Has your joy in Christ ever diminished due to your obedience to Him? How might meditating on Christ's faithfulness to you in the past encourage your faith in the present? How does knowing that you are called to bless others change your prayer life and shape or reshape your priorities?

## 3. Fearlessly Honor Jesus – Instead of Blending In (vv. 13-17)

- Stephen points out that, "...following Jesus involves a decision. Will you suffer outside the camp with Jesus, or will you enjoy the temporary acceptance of this world?" See Hebrews 13:12-14. When believers are faced with that choice we are commanded not to fear. What does Peter present as the solution to such fear? Connect Isaiah 8:13 to 1 Peter 3:15.
- What is the command in verse 15 telling the believer to do? Are you prepared?