

1 Peter 1:7 – Part W

1Pe 1:6 (ESV) **In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.**

We are addressing those things that Scripture says bring “**praise, glory, and honor**” to God. Last week we saw that **God is glorified when our life has a GODLY PURPOSE to it – [1 Corinthians 10:31](#)** and that **God is glorified when PEOPLE SEE OUR GOOD WORKS – [Matthew 5:16](#).**

God is glorified when CHRISTIANS ARE LIKE-MINDED – [Romans 15:5-6](#).

Ro 15:5 (NKJV) **Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, ⁶ that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

[Philippians 2:2](#) says,

Php 2:2 (NKJV) **fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind.**

So, the words that Paul uses is “**like-minded, one mind, one mouth, same love**”, and “**of one accord**”. These are all words that speak of spiritual unity among believers. If we read [Romans 15:6](#) properly and carefully, it should be obvious that we cannot really “**glorify**” God if we are not of “**one mind**” and “**one mouth**” or one voice. The word “**like-minded**” is actually rendered in the Greek text with two separate words as “*to think the same thing*”. The NASB says “**to be of the same mind**”, and the ESV says to “**live in such harmony with one another**”. The AMP says “**to live in such mutual harmony and such full sympathy with one another**”. I like the NIV which says “**give you a spirit of unity among yourselves**”. In reality, the actual English word for being “**like-minded**” is somewhat difficult to actually define. It seems for both of the passages that we read that the other words which follow, the context of what Paul is saying, is what actually helps us to more clearly understand what is being taught. This is one of those obvious words that we address constantly where the context becomes the defining factor as to how a word should be translated.

Think of the word this way. There is no such thing as “neutral” thinking. What we think and how we think are exactly what create who we are and how we live. I cannot separate what I am from what I think. Whatever a person thinks is what ultimately controls them. For instance, if my mind is controlled by earthly thoughts, sensual thoughts, then my life will be earthly and sensual. However, if my mind is being controlled by God’s Word and by God’s truth, then my life will reflect God. Obviously, God does not think like we think, but He has given us His Word so that we can know how He thinks. Whenever we see someone and it is apparent that they are carnal or have a lot of sinful appetites, then it should be obvious that their life is not under the control of either God’s Spirit or God’s Word. Listen to how Paul clearly described this in [Romans 8:5](#),

Ro 8:5 (NKJV) For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

I think the ESV actually translates it the way it should be translated,

Ro 8:5 (ESV) For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

The problem, however, is what follows in [Romans 8:6-8](#).

Ro 8:6 (NKJV) For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. ⁷ Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

In our terminology and focus today, we could actually say “cannot glorify God”. So, how I think has to become a priority of my life, and that is not without great effort and concentration on our part. Whatever we fill our mind with is what will ultimately fill our heart.

Now, within the setting of the local church and in the Christian life, we have what people call “non-essentials” vs. “essentials” relative to biblical doctrine and belief. The way that people have expressed their perspective relative to these two ideas is that they say “In non-essentials, liberty. In essentials, unity. In all things, love.” Personally, and this is just an opinion on my part, but I think there is a lot of wisdom in that perspective – that we are to be patient with those with whom we may have differences. Being able to get along with someone who may be contending with us about some particular doctrinal or spiritual area requires much more maturity and character on our part. Anyone can be argumentative and contentious, but to be patient with people, to be gracious and kind to them, that is the real test. Being “**like-minded**” is not a word that is specifically defining that everyone has to agree on everything, but rather that we should be sympathetic to one another, understanding, kind, gracious, and willing to handle ourselves in a Christ-like way when there are differences. I am so convicted in my heart that the Word of God is so powerful in its ability to bring us all to the truth that I do not want to lose those opportunities just because I was too arrogant and too impatient with someone that I disagreed with on an issue. Ephesians 4:13 speaks about this when it says,

Eph 4:13 (NKJV) till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

The NASB and ESV say until we “**all attain to the unity of the faith**”. It is not something that happens overnight, but it happens as we transparently and corporately allow ourselves to be taught and transformed by the Word of God, by letting it exercise its influence over our life and changing how we respond to certain issues.

The entire context of the passage in [Romans 15](#) is that God bears with us and does not become angry with us when we offend Him in some way. We must keep that in perspective if that passage is going to have any meaningful value to our life. I cannot allow myself to feel threatened just because someone disagrees with me. In actuality, the differences and the disagreements are all the more reason why we need to be forbearing with others who may not agree with some position that we have doctrinally. Obviously, that does not mean that we compromise truth for the sake of unity, but it does mean that we have to be forbearing and patient with people when we do have differences. I am constantly exhorting

my students not to become disgruntled in their ministry when they encounter someone who is different in their beliefs and may become somewhat argumentative on certain issues. Those are actually the very people that I want in my classroom. It is not so that as their professor that I can beat them into my theological box – not at all, but simply so that I can respond graciously, academically, and lovingly to what so often may separate Christians. I have several students in our local extension who are of very different theological backgrounds and beliefs than I have or teach, but they are thrilled with what they are learning and are constantly letting me know how much their training is impacting their life.

Obviously, there are some things that are non-negotiable in the Christian life, and most of them are related to the doctrine of God, the doctrine of Christ, and the doctrine of salvation. As believers, we have to accept the non-negotiables. In those areas, we really need to be in agreement with one another, but very often the doctrinal differences may unfortunately be fairly severe. In the way that Paul expresses it here, we need to think the same thing, to have unity relative to those areas of doctrine that are essential for biblical faith – and we can only do that from a correct biblical exegesis and analysis of a passage. If we do not take the time to rightly divide God’s Word, if we are just too impatient to spend time in God’s Word, if we are not willing to invest our time in understanding God’s Word, then the moment that something does not go our way in a church, the moment that someone says something we do not like, we will be gone. Why? It is because we never really understood or developed this godly unity with other believers in our life. Trust me, but that takes time. It takes a lot of time of being together with one another and with studying the Word of God with one another, and providing the liberty for other people to disagree without feeling threatened. When we are able to live these kinds of things out in our life, God will be glorified, not only in our personal lives, but also in our church.

God is glorified when we LIVE A PURE LIFE – [1 Corinthians 6:18-20](#).

1Co 6:18 (NKJV) Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

The word for “**bought**” in v20 is the Greek word “*agorazo*”. In the context, the consequence of Christ having purchased us by His blood is that we are exclusively His. Whatever we do in our life is to reflect the fact that we know that we are now a part of His family, a part of His kingdom, and that we now bear the marks of His person and His Spirit in our life. We have been divinely marked as being His, as being someone who has been made worthy, as someone who has been indwelt by the Holy Spirit, and as someone who is to be eternally grateful in how they live out their life. The NKJV says to “**glorify God in your body and in your spirit**”, but that last phrase is not actually in the Greek text. I have no idea why it has been added in the KJV or the NKJV. They are the only two translations that use that phrase in the translation. For instance, the NASB, ESV, AMP, NIV, ASV, ISV, RSV all leave out the phrase “**in your spirit**”. So, the clear emphasis of these three verses is that of keeping oneself morally and sexually pure. There is absolutely no place in the Christian life for “**sexual immorality**”, for sexual impurity. V19 says that our body is actually the “**temple**”, the “**sanctuary**” of the Holy Spirit. In the Greek text, the word for “**sexual immorality**” is actually “**fornication**” which is the Greek word

“*porneuo*” from where we get our word “pornography”. It literally means to indulge in immorality in a sexual sense. In [1 Corinthians 5:9](#) we are told not to keep company with immoral people.

1Co 5:9 (NKJV) I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people.

Let me just read several of the verses written in Scripture about this aspect of a person’s life. None of these are good and all are warnings to “flee sexual immorality”. [1 Corinthians 6:9-10](#) says,

1Co 6:9 (NKJV) Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

[Ephesians 5:5](#) says,

Eph 5:5 (NKJV) For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

[Hebrews 13:4](#) says,

Heb 13:4 (NKJV) Marriage *is* honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

[Revelation 21:8](#) says,

Rev 21:8 (NKJV) But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

[Revelation 22:15](#), speaking about heaven, says,

Rev 22:15 (NKJV) But outside *are* dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.

When I read verses like these, I am personally convinced with a deep conviction that those who remain sexually immoral and sexually impure in their life are not saved. I love the way that [1 Corinthians 6:11](#) concludes that passage on sexual immorality when it says,

1Co 6:11 (NKJV) And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

That is where our hope lies and that is where God is glorified.