

Beautiful Together

2 Peter 1:1-15

SESSION THREE Beautiful Reminders 1 Peter 1:12-15 ESV

REMEMBER AND REMIND – NEVER FORGET

Verse 12. “Therefore I intend **always** (incessantly, perpetually, any and every time I have a chance) to **remind you** (not going to let you forget) of these **qualities** (virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection, love), though you know them and are **established (rooted, fixed in place, firm, constant)** in the truth that you have.

Verse 13. I think it right, as long as I am in this body (still alive and kicking in this earthly dwelling), to **stir you up** (wake up, arouse from sleep, sea waters being agitated, rising waters, arouse the mind, prod and poke to get you moving) by way of **reminder, V.13**

Peter’s goal is to stir up his readers – the **writer of Hebrews** also encourages us to stir up one another – to spur one another on to action. (Hebrew 10:24-25 ESV)

There was deep concern among the writers of the NT that the testimony and unity of believers be a beautiful bright light to a dark and dying world. They had heard Jesus’ words:

JESUS – “In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 5:16 ESV

See also: 1 John 1:5-7, Hebrews 12:14-15, James 5:16, 19-20 Look out for one another; hold each other accountable.

Colossians 2:2 – Paul encouraged believers to be "knit together in love." Illustration: when love begins to unravel – what was lovely, useful, warm, and purposeful, it loses its loveliness, its warmth, its purpose and effectiveness – it becomes worthless

If you sew, knit or crochet, you know that lost, broken, loose stitch weakens the structure and efficacy of the garment. In the same way, things like gossip, ill-will, guilt, impatience, hard feelings, lovelessness, negativity weaken and tear down the structure of the body of Christ.

Peter knows this. In his first letter he wrote:

1 Peter 4:7-9 “The end of all things is at hand; therefore be **self-controlled** and **sober-minded** for the sake of your prayers. 8 Above all, **keep loving one** another earnestly, **since love covers a multitude of sins**. 9 Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.” **Don’t let fractures, hurt feelings, resentment, hostilities destroy the beauty of believers’ fellowship – whether church or organization or friendship. LET LOVE COVER YOU and all of your relationships.**

1 Peter 4:10-11 Peter continues his charge: You’ve each been gifted, use those gifts wisely and generously to serve one another. Whatever your gifts, talents, and abilities, know that all is God-given for the purpose of serving one another and glorifying God.

2 Peter 1:14-15 “Since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. And I will make every effort **so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.**” Peter knows his time is short, he’s death sentence is certain. But he is determined to use his final days and hours and minutes to remind his readers of who they are in Christ and how they are to serve God and one another. Peter knows it’s easy to forget.

REMEMBER

Peter 2:9 ESV - But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Beautiful Together only happens in its fullness when each believer:

- Knows & embraces her **PERSONAL IDENTITY** in Christ
- Has the proper **PERSPECTIVE** – not a prisoner of the her past, but pressing forward to follow God wholeheartedly
- Is surrendered to the **PURPOSE** God has made her for

We must remember the **beauty of our identity** in Jesus Christ.

We must remember the **beauty of a life surrendered** to the Father.

We must remember **the beauty of every daughter and son of the King** – every child of Christ – is an image-bearer of our SAVIOR – each shares in His beauty. We must look for that beauty in each one – and encourage the beauty to shine

We must remember the **beauty of the body of believers** in which God has placed us – **a beauty that is to be a reflection of our Savior – a light to a dark, Hell-bound world,**

We must remember the **beauty of our Savior’s servant heart** and our **responsibility to follow His example and serve one another.**

We must remember that the Source of ALL beauty is our God. Each daughter – every son – of God is purposed to be an individual reflection of His beauty.

Isaiah 60:1-2, 9 ESV 1 Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. 2 For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and His glory will be seen upon you. 9...for the name of the LORD your God, and for the Holy One of Israel, because He has made you beautiful.*

*Other translations for “because He has made you beautiful” – Because He Has Glorified You (KJV, NKJV, CSB, NASB) “He has filled you with splendor,” (NLT)

CLOSING PRAYER:

Dear LORD, now may You, our God and Father, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way. Help us. Make us LORD, to increase and abound in love for one another and for all. Please establish our hearts blameless in holiness before You, God our Father, at the coming of Your Son, Jesus Christ, with all his saints.

Let us ever remember our **IDENTITY** in YOU – we are Yours and You are ours.

Let us never forget that because of Your grace and mercy, we are NOT prisoners of our past. May our **PERSPECTIVE** be ever looking forward, moving onward, growing in knowledge of You, seeing and loving others as YOU do.

Remind us daily of our **PURPOSE**. The PURPOSE to which YOU have called us. Holy Spirit, stir us up. Move us ever forward to do the unique work YOU have for us to do and UNITE us. Strengthen our love for another, bind us together to serve YOU and bring glory to YOUR name.

Amen.