



SERIES:	60 1 & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	How To Attract Flies
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	1 Peter 3:8-12

MESSAGE SUMMARY

The old saying "You catch more flies with honey than you do with vinegar" fits perfectly with Peter's letter. He's been telling Christians how to live in plain view of the unbelieving world. Now he goes into the church and tells us how to treat each other. It's his hope that an exhibition of real, Christian love will provide a base of satisfying fellowship for us and attract unbelievers. But how?

DETAILED NOTES

I. Introduction

- A. As followers of Jesus, the watchword isn't *me*, but *you*
- B. "You catch more flies with honey than you do with vinegar" —Benjamin Franklin, *Poor Richard's Almanac*
- C. First Peter 2:11-3:12 deals with how believers live their lives before an unbelieving world
- D. Three areas of social interaction: government, workplace, home
 1. Our general role in all of these? Submission
 2. Fourth area: the church—"all of you" (3:8)
- E. Tertullian records Roman government sending spies into churches (2nd century AD)
- F. How to attract flies? By three sweet things...

II. By Our General Attitude (v. 8)

- A. Five-fold description of the attitude of the believer is summed up in one word: love (see Matthew 20:37-40)
- B. *Be of one mind, or like-minded*
 1. Does not mean *uniformity*
 2. "If two people agree on everything, one of them isn't thinking"
 3. Early church disagreements and arguments
 - a. Paul and Barnabas argued over John Mark (Acts 15:37-39)
 - b. Apostles argued over who would be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven (Mark 9:33-34, Luke 22:24)
 4. Having one mind = cooperation in the midst of diversity
 - a. Jesus prayed for this (John 17:20-21)
 - b. We must agree on the core issues of Christianity
- C. *Having compassion*
 1. *Sympathes* (Greek), meaning to feel an emotion or to hurt together
 2. First, think the same things; now, feel the same things
 3. "Your hurt in my heart"
 4. Romans 12:15, 1 Corinthians 12:26

- D. *Love as brothers*
 - 1. Or, love one another as brothers *should*
 - 2. Perhaps Peter had Andrew in mind as he wrote this
 - 3. I John 3:14
 - E. *Be tenderhearted*
 - 1. *Eusplagchnos* (Greek), literally meaning having good bowels; intestines, kidneys, or guts were where the deepest emotions were believed to have resided
 - 2. Be deeply concerned for others
 - 3. The church ought to be the place where the walking wounded feel at home
 - F. *Be courteous*
 - 1. Or *be humble-minded*; this was considered weakness in Greco-Roman culture
 - 2. Humility is the grease that keeps the gears of relationships running smoothly
 - 3. "I used to think that God's gifts were on shelves one above the other and the taller you grew in Christian grace, the more easily you could take them. I have now come to realize that God's gifts are on shelves one below the other, and it's not a matter of growing taller but of stooping lower" —paraphrased from F.B. Meyer
- III. By Our Gentle Response (v. 9)
- A. Bless back that you might get a blessing
 - B. This might have been a topic close to Peter's heart (see Matthew 26:51-52)
 - C. What separates Christianity from all other belief systems, including Judaism?
 - 1. *We love our enemies*
 - 2. Jews had to have laws to limit vengeance: *lex talionis* (Latin; see Exodus 21)
 - 3. Imprecatory Psalms
 - D. Persecutions on earth today will add blessings to you in heaven tomorrow (Matthew 5:11-12)
- IV. By Our Genuine Motivation (vv. 10-12)
- A. Why should we do any of this?
 - B. Because God says so in His Word
 - 1. Peter quotes the Old Testament (Psalm 34)
 - 2. It takes the whole Bible to make a whole believer
 - 3. This is the way to have a good life: if you love life, then love people
 - 4. *Joie de vivre* (French), describes someone who is a lover of life—vs. Solomon (see Ecclesiastes 2:17)
 - C. Because God is watching
 - 1. *Watching* = superintending, watching over with care, protecting, listening to
 - 2. You don't need to worry about the people who do you evil; God sees it, notices, and will take care of it
 - D. This whole passage (I Peter 3:8-12) describes God's character (Romans 5:8)
- V. Closing
- A. We are not the company of the faultless; we are the company of the forgiven
 - B. We should open our doors to the unlovely and the hurting and show Christ's love
 - C. *That's* how to attract flies

Figures Referenced: Benjamin Franklin, Tertullian, F.B. Meyer

Greek/Hebrew words: *sumpathes, eusplagchnos*

Cross references: Exodus 21, Psalm 34, Ecclesiastes 2:17, Matthew 5:11-12, Matthew 20:37-40, Matthew 26:51-52, Mark 9:33-34, Luke 22:24, John 17:20-21, Acts 15:37-39, Romans 5:8, Romans 12:15, I Corinthians 12:26, I Peter 2:11-3:7, 3:8-12, I John 3:14

Topic: Love

Keywords: love, church, relationships, witness, unbelievers, non-Christians, blessing, enemies, humility, compassion, one mind