

## **“LOVE THE BROTHERHOOD”**

**1 PETER 2:17**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

1. God’s people are so special that He has inscribed them on the palms of His hands. (Lev. 19.28; Isa. 49.15,16; John 13.34)
2. The church was a central theme of the gospel. (Matt. 4.17; 10.6)
3. **1 PETER 2.17:** *“Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.”*

### **I. THE IDENTITY OF THE CHURCH**

- A. The church is a group of God’s saved people. (1 Pet. 2.9,10)
  1. People called out of darkness. (1 Pet. 2.9; 2 Thess. 2.14)
  2. People who have obtained mercy. (1 Pet. 2.10)
- B. The church is described as the *“brotherhood.”* (1 Pet. 2.17)
  1. As brethren, we all have the same Father. (2 Cor. 6.18)
  2. As brethren, we all have the same Brother. (Heb. 2.11)

### **II. THE EXCLUSIVITY OF THE CHURCH**

- A. The church is exclusive to those who obey the gospel.
  1. Universalism and Pluralism are popular concepts.
  2. Pilgrims: This implies separation. (1 Pet. 1.1)
- B. The Bible teaches that there is only one church.
  1. Only one church was predicted. (Isa. 2.1,2; 1 Tim. 3.15)
  2. Only one church was promised. (Matt. 16.18)
  3. Only one church was purchased. (Acts 20.28)

### **III. THE AFFECTION FOR THE CHURCH**

- A. **1 PETER 2.17:** *“Love the brotherhood.”*
  1. Agape: Always wanting what is best.
  2. Do you want what is best for your brethren?
- B. Love the church by making Jesus the center of your life.
  1. **COLOSSIANS 3.4:** *“Christ who is our life.”*
  2. If Jesus is my life, then I am going to always want what is best for His people. (John 14.15; 13.34,35)

**CONCLUSION:** How do you feel about the church?

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*“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”*  
-Mark 16.15

**November 30, 2025**

### **MEETING TIMES:**

**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM**

**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM**

**SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM**

**WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM**

## **The Whole Armor of God**

Fighting against the devil is something every one of us must do. We are told to *“resist the devil”* (James 4.7) We are also warned of the devil who is described as a *“roaring lion”* and told to *“resist him, steadfast in the faith”* (1 Pet. 5.8,9). God has not left us without a way to protect us against the *“wiles of the devil”* (Eph. 6.11). We have been given spiritual armor to stand against him.

Notice that the armor of God is a complete set. To resist the devil and not give into the temptations that he sets before us, we must *“put on the whole armor of God”* (Eph. 6.11). There are six pieces of armor that we are given: The belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, gospel of peace, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6.14-17). Failing to put on all of these pieces will make us vulnerable. It is only when we put on every single piece that we will be able to *“withstand in the evil day”* (Eph. 6.13).

Notice that the armor of God includes pieces that are offensive and defensive in nature. Five of the six pieces are designed to protect us against the devil’s attacks. But then you have the sword of the Spirit, the word of God that acts as an offensive weapon (Eph. 6.17). It is this word that we use to *“cast down arguments”* (2 Cor. 10.3-6).

Never take for granted that we will be able to resist the devil (1 Cor. 10.12). We cannot overcome the temptations of the devil unless we are properly prepared. God has given us what we need to survive this spiritual war.

CLP

# UNDERSTANDING REDEMPTION

## EPHESIANS 1:7

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Reconciliation expresses being at one with God. Similarly, remission expresses being justified. (Heb. 8.12; Rom. 3.23-26)
2. God sent Jesus so that He can be both “just and justifier” and thus offering redemption to humanity. (Rom. 3.23-26)

### I. SCRIPTURES

- A. **Ephesians 1.7:** “*In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins...*”
- B. **Titus 2.14:** “*who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed*”
- C. **Hebrews 9.12:** “*He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.*”
- D. **1 Peter 1.18,19:** “*knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things...but with the precious blood of Christ*”

### II. DEFINITION

- A. The word defined.
  1. Redemption: “gaining possession of something in exchange for payment” [[Dictionary.com](#)]
  2. Apolytrosis: “to loosen away from”
  3. Exogarazo: “to purchase out of” (cf. John 8.34)
- B. The word illustrated. (cf. Ps. 138.14; 1 Cor. 6.20)

### III. EXPLANATION

- A. The moral attributes of God.
  1. The holiness of God. (1 Pet. 1.16; Isa. 59.2)
  2. The righteousness of God. (2 Thess. 1.6; Heb. 10.30,31)
  3. The mercy of God. (Luke 6.36)
  4. The love of God. (1 John 4.8)
- B. To be both just and justified, God sent Jesus. (Phil. 2.6-8)

### IV. APPLICATION

- A. From what am I saved? (Rom. 5.9)
- B. When we understand redemption, we will not hesitate to believe that we are saved. (Rom. 8.1)

**CONCLUSION:** Are you among the redeemed?

# JESUS: AN EXAMPLE OF THANKSGIVING

Christians are expected to follow Jesus. After washing the disciples’ feet, Jesus said, “*I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you*” (John 13.15). When we suffer, we are to look to Jesus “*because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps*” (1 Pet. 2.21). The apostle John wrote that we “*ought himself also to walk just as He walked*” (1 John 2.6). As the holiday brings to our minds the giving of thanks, we can look to Jesus as an example of thanksgiving.

Jesus gave thanks for physical provisions. We are a blessed people. We have been blessed abundantly with the things of this life. And hopefully, as we sit down at the dinner table, we will take time to give thanks to God for our food. That’s what Jesus did. In Matthew 14, Jesus sat down with a large group of people numbering five thousand. He took five loaves of bread and a few fish. Before He passed the food around, “*looking up to heaven, He blessed*” the food (Matt. 14.19). When you sit down and eat a meal, do you say a prayer of thanksgiving?

Jesus was thankful for God’s salvation. In Mark 14, Jesus sits down with His disciples to observe the Passover. He then took the emblems and used them to institute the Lord’s Supper. It says that “*Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it*” (Mark 14.22). He then took the fruit of the vine, “*and when He had given thanks He gave it to them*” (Mark 14.23). The Passover was when God saved the firstborn of Israel. The Lord’s Supper is the remembrance of the sacrifice of Christ that brings us salvation. As Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper, He gave thanks. This set an example of how we are to be thankful for salvation.

Jesus was thankful for answered prayers. When Jesus heard that Lazarus was sick, He made His way to his home. When He arrived, Lazarus had died and had been buried. Jesus was about to perform a miracle and raise Lazarus from the dead. Before He would call to Lazarus to “*come forth*” (John 11.43), Jesus would offer a prayer to God. In His prayer, He said, “*Father, I thank You that You have heard Me*” (John 11.41). As He continued to pray, He said, “*And I know that You always hear Me*” (John 11.43). Jesus was thankful that God heard and answered His prayers. We are told that God hears our prayers (1 Pet. 3.12). Like Jesus, we ought to be thankful for prayer.

Thanksgiving is a time to remember our blessings and express our appreciation for the good that has come into our lives. However, we should not be thankful only during the holiday season. Through Paul, the Holy Spirit wrote, “*giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ*” (Eph. 5.20). Notice that giving thanks is to be done always. Notice also that giving thanks is to be for all things. For Christians, thanksgiving is all year around. CLP