

Keepin' it real as a church

1 Peter 4:7-11

07.26.09

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1. Purposeful in prayer
2. Laden with love
3. Happily hospitable
4. Serving as stewards
5. Glorifying God

1. Purposeful in prayer

7 The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit **for the purpose of prayer.**

- God loves His Son and has a wonderful plan to bring all the nations into worship of Him, and God loves you enough to include you in that plan
 - The consummation calls for consecration
 - Consummation = Kingdom, judgment, justice, restoration, make new
 - Consecration = to make or declare sacred; formally dedicated to God
 - Joshua 3:5

Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you
- NIV = **be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray**
- NKJV = **be serious and watchful in your prayers**
- = being purposeful about prayer in light of God's goals
- The point is: Because Christ is coming again...
 - We should have the aroma of prayer in our lives
 - Cnt. The boys in Gethsemane
- The last 2 weeks connect here:
 - 4-year-olds theology... that only sees tomorrow for what it hold for them
 - Revelation 7 and God's goals
 - If we catch a vision for God's goals and caring about others—we will pray

2. Laden with love

8 Above all, **keep fervent in your love** for one another, because **love** covers a multitude of sins.

- **Love covers** = **forgives and disregards the offenses of others** (Amplified Bible)
- When love is abounding:
 - Small and even large offences are overlooked and forgotten

- Where love is lacking:
 - Every offence is taken note of and remembered
 - Suspicion, jealousy, misunderstanding and conflict abound
 - And Satan is delighted

3. *Happily hospitable*

9 Be **hospitable** to one another without **complaint**.

- The original setting
 - Idea = being generous to guests
- The overarching idea is that we, as Christians, are ready to care for one another
 - And people in general

4. *Serving as stewards*

10 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in **serving** one another as good **stewards** of the manifold grace of God.

- What if we?
 - 1. Approached life this way
 - 2. Did church this way
- Moving from being served to being a servant
- Moving from ownership to stewardship

5. *Glorifying God*

11 Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; **so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ**, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- Peter mentions two sort of broad categories of gifts here: speaking and serving
- But this is not meant to be exhaustive, but rather illustrative
 - "Whatever God has gifted you to do... do it **by and for** Him and make it **all about** Him."