

"BUT AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSEHOLD
WE WILL SERVE THE LORD"

-Joshua 24:15b



-FAMILY VALUES SERIES-

Author – Peter

Audience – churches in Asia Minor

- Christians

Setting of Passage

- relating to those in authority 2:13-17
- servants relating to masters 2:18-25
- believing wives & unbelieving husbands 3:1-6
- husbands living wisely & considerately 3:7

Now – relating to one another as believers

1 Peter 3:8-9, “⁸ Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. ⁹ Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing”

1. Five Values to Embrace

a) unity of mind

- other versions 'Harmonious'
- co-operation in diversity of gifts & personalities, practices
- Rom. 12:16 "Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight."

- not uniformity but... common understanding of salvation, person & work of God, call to us as family.
- differ on the how, agree on why & what
- what causes disharmony & disunity
- James 4:1-2 “What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ² You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask.”

b) Sympathetic

- putting yourself in someone else's shoes
- seeking to respond in sensitivity
- root found in word compassion
- Rom. 12:15 "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep."
- listening and responding with wisdom & gentleness

c) Brotherly Love

- not viewing one another as anything but family
- have the ability to 'crush' those close to us! Unique ability to build up or tear down
- 1 Thess 4:9 "Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another,"
- families see each other at their worst!

- protect, love, care, intervene, defend

d) Tender Hearted

- speaks to an inner reality, posture
- literally – in your innards, belly, feeling
- ‘feel generous in your belly’
- Rom. 12:9-10 “Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.”

e) Humble of Spirit

- Phil 2:1-5 “So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus”

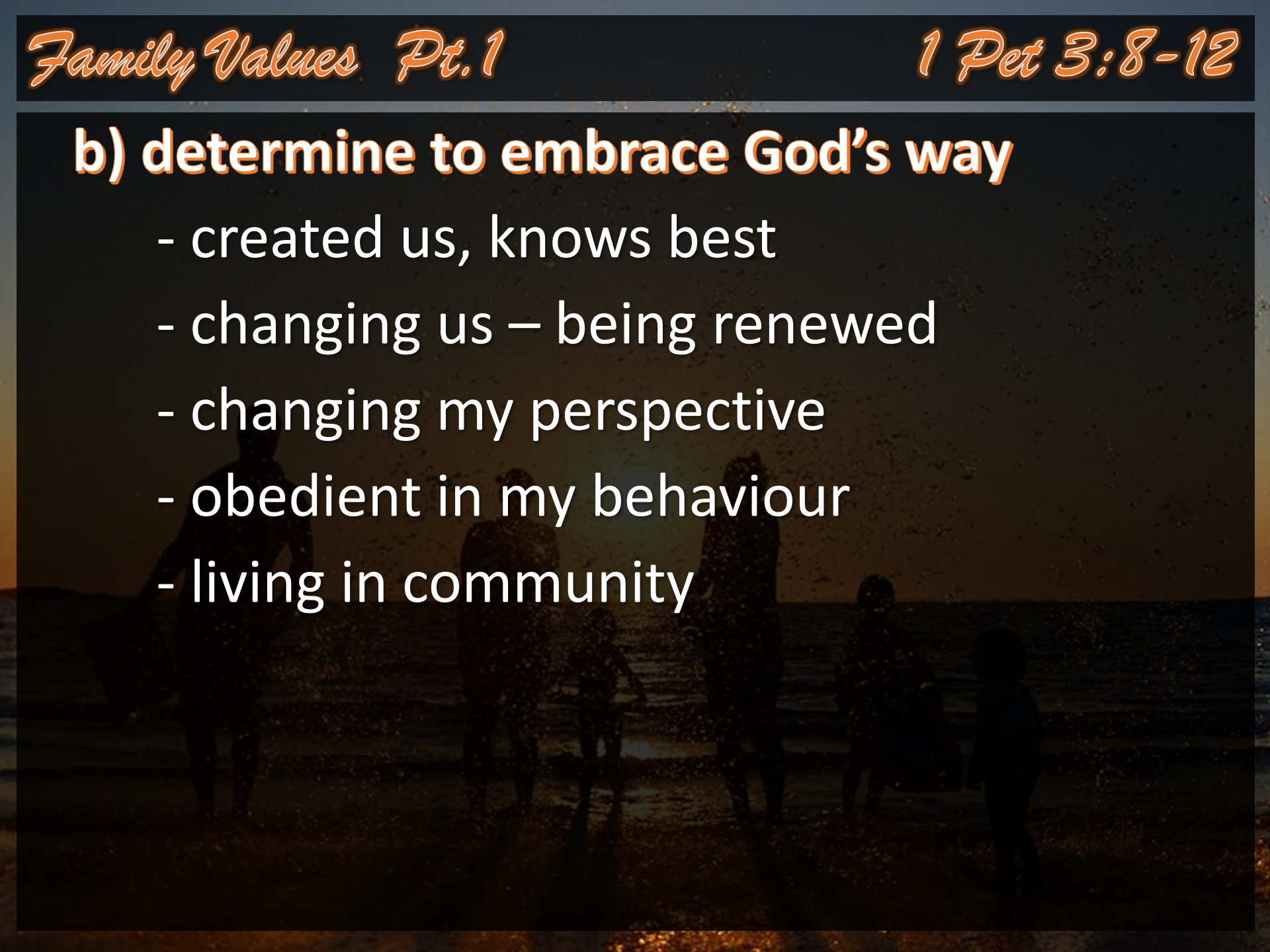
2. How do we Live this out?

a) Recall our common basis

- loved by God – while still sinners
- redeemed – all had price paid by grace
- spirit of God in us – indwelling Spirit
- adopted children – chosen, made family
- called to participation – live as...

b) determine to embrace God's way

- created us, knows best
- changing us – being renewed
- changing my perspective
- obedient in my behaviour
- living in community



3. Action towards One Another

- don't repay evil or insult in kind
- shocking this will happen within family
 - guard is down at home, with family
 - frustration, tired, visible & lived out
 - expect more of each other, retaliate
- will damage and offend the family we love
- called to bless them, not seek to respond in kind!

a) called to live responding differently

- Rom. 12:14-21 “¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰ To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

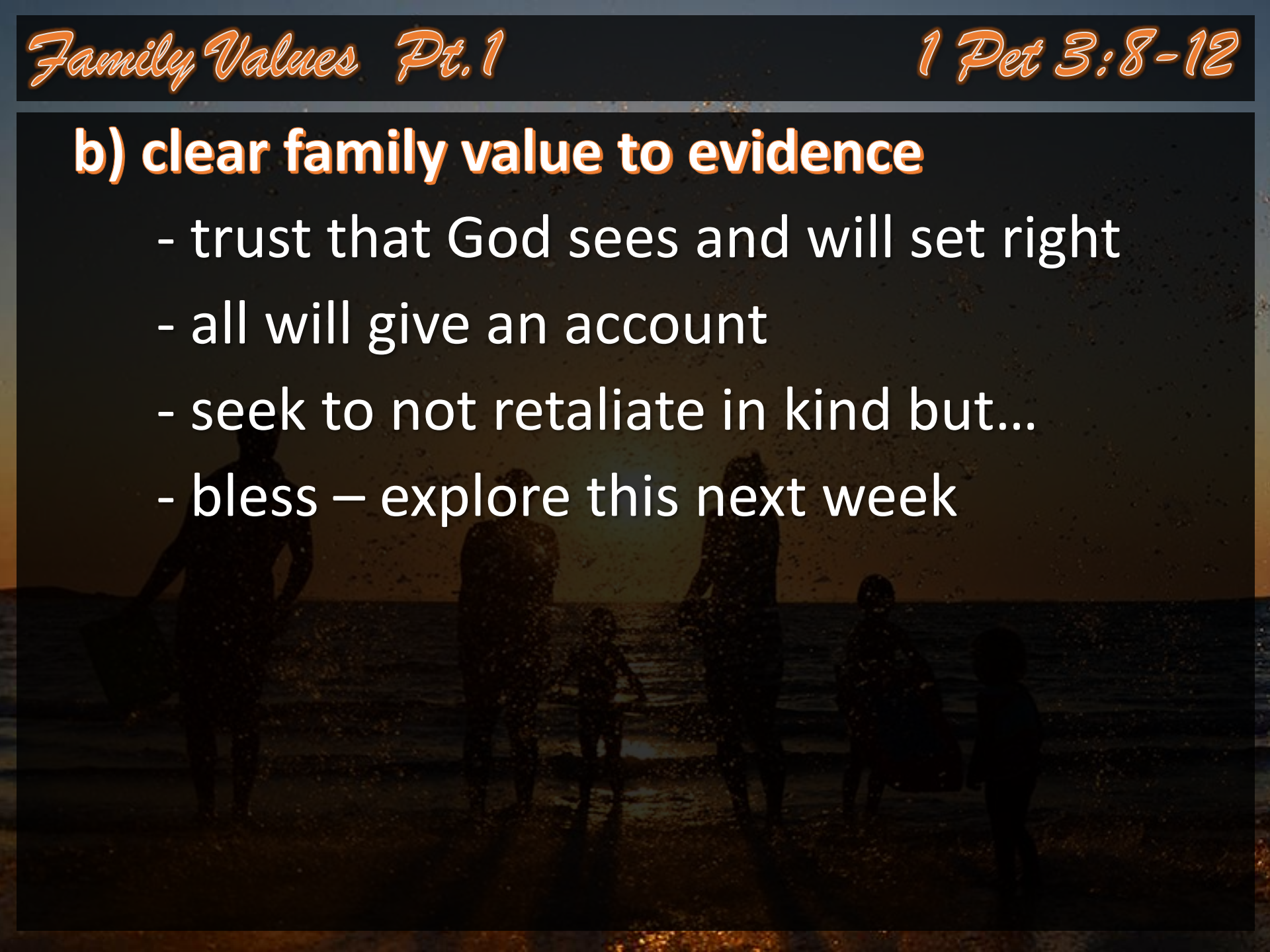
- Peter has used the term '*called to this*' twice in a short time.

- 2:20-23 “For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly”

- don't miss several truths about this
 - first we are called to endure unjust suffering with patience – and then called to bless those who do evil and revile us
 - shown clearly that Jesus did this very thing setting an example for us
 - assured that justice is not ours to effect, that God will deal with it, and we can trust our Father to set right injustice

b) clear family value to evidence

- trust that God sees and will set right
- all will give an account
- seek to not retaliate in kind but...
- bless – explore this next week



So What?

1. Cannot miss – written to us the family
2. Clear Values to Embrace
 - how are we doing at this?
 - how do we encourage them, guard?
3. How are we doing at living in community
 - have we been those causing offense?
 - how are we at responding to others?