

## Harmonious

*“to sum up, let us be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kind-hearted and humble in spirit.”*

### 1 Peter 3:8

**Harmonious**—Over the next few days we will look at each of these words. Today we start with *homophrones*. This word combines *homos* (the same) and *phrone* (mind or understanding). Peter tells us that believers who are equally submissive to God and each other need to have the same frame of mind.

Many times we find divisions in the body of believers. Theological issues divide us from each other. Do you think that this is what God intended? Have you felt the grieving of His spirit in you when you experience the separation of one believing community from another? I have. And I have decided to do something about it. I believe that God asks us to reach beyond our “theological” disagreements and see each other as He sees us equally forgiven, equally redeemed, equally submissive to Him. When I share my experience with God, I find connecting points with everyone who loves God as I do. It doesn’t matter what church they go to or how they grew up. The change in my life greets the change in the other person’s life and we can thank God together. I have decided to practice *homophrones* in gratitude and submission. God can take care of the theology. My job is to take care of His children.

My greatest grief is seeing Christians turn away from fellow believers who have fallen into times of trial and temptation. You see, I have been down some very shameful roads myself. I know what it is to fall hard to the bottom. I know the agony and torture of sin’s destructive force. God and I share some pretty difficult things together. So, when I see someone who is experiencing failure, conviction and torment, I remember what it was like for me and I remember that God never let me go. Apart from His grace, I would still be on the road to darkness.

Harmony is more than everyone believing the same thing in a nice, comfortable fellowship of insiders. Harmony is having the mindset of common characteristics. No one knew this better than Peter, rejecting and restored. Peter and I both know what it is like to turn our backs on Him. And we both know how hard it was to see His tears at our denial. We will never forget. That reminder means today your tears are mine. Your cry is mine. We have the same mind. You can count on me because I am just like you.

Who do you need to say that to today?