

UNDERSTANDING ONE ANOTHER Text: 1 Peter 3:7–9

To Help One Another Get to Heaven

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Introduction:

1. A Friend I grew up w/ told me his dad loved garage sales...
2. Sometimes we misunderstand the intentions of others
3. Think of the Other Possible Reactions He Could've Had!

I. WHAT: The Blessing of Understanding

A. THE DEFINITION OF UNDERSTANDING

1. We Use This Word 2 Different Ways—

Oxford American Dictionary Defines Both:

- a) *Understanding*: “Comprehension, perception, intellect, judgement.”
- b) *Also*: “Sympathetic awareness of other people's feelings; tolerant and forgiving.”

2. The Bible Uses This Word Both Ways As Well...

- a) Spiritual Understanding (**Colossians 1:9**)
- b) Relational Understanding (**1 Peter 3:7-8**)

3. Spiritual Understanding involves All of Reality: both Life and Relationships

B. THE SOURCE OF UNDERSTANDING

1. The Source of True Understanding is God (**Prov. 3:19; Job 12:13**)

2. Understanding is a Gift From God (**Prov. 2:6**)

3. God gives us understanding through His word (**Psalms 119:104**)

- a) “Through Your precepts I get understanding”

C. THE BLESSING OF UNDERSTANDING

1. Understanding is a Blessing From God—Helpful in All Aspects of Life

2. Understanding is One of the Seven Pillars of Wisdom (**Prov. 9:1; 8:12-14**)

“Wisdom has built her house; she has hewn her seven pillars.” (Proverbs 9:1 ESV)

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| 1. PRUDENCE - עֲרֻמָּה (ormāh) | 5. COUNSEL & SOUND WISDOM - עֵצָה (`etsah) |
| 2. KNOWLEDGE - דַּעַת (da'ath) | 6. UNDERSTANDING - בִּינָה (biynah) |
| 3. DISCRETION - מְזִמָּה (mez-im-maw´) | 7. STRENGTH / POWER - גְּבוּרָה (gebuwrah) |
| 4. FEAR OF THE LORD - יִרְאַתַּת יְהוָה (yir'ah YHWH) | |

1) To put ‘understanding’ into perspective, we look at three of the pillars together...

- The first pillar, Prudence, is the wise application of knowledge or the ‘**how**’,
- The second pillar, Knowledge is information itself or the ‘**what**’,
- The sixth pillar is ‘understanding’, this is the ‘**why**’.

3) Without the ‘**why**’, we won’t make proper application of the ‘**how**’ & ‘**what**’

3. This is Spiritual Wisdom that Includes Understanding How To Deal with Life, Decision, People, Conflicts, and Relationships

4. This is what Solomon asked God for (**1 Kings 3:7–14**)

II. WHY: The Need For Understanding

A. WE NEED UNDERSTANDING FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION

1. We Need Understanding to Resolve Conflicts

- a) One Way Solomon Used Wisdom—was Like a Sword—
—to Cut Through the Confusion & Deception of People and Conflicts
- b) Example: Two Women in a Dispute (**1 Kings 3:16-28**)

2. Understanding is So Important that The Queen of Sheba travelled across Barren Deserts to hear the Wisdom of Solomon

- a) An Ancient inscription was found recording these words from the Queen of Sheba

“I went in through the treasury of wisdom and I drew for myself the waters of understanding.”
—Queen of Sheba, inscription 10th century B.C.

3. What Are We to Do When we have a conflict with someone?

- a) Jesus instructs us to go to that person personally and privately to try to work it out.
Jesus gave us several stages to resolve the conflict:
 - (1) 1st go to them > if they won't work it out go with another who can mediate
 - (2) If they still won't work it out > bring it to the church
 - (3) If they still won't work it out > let them go,
they're a Troublemaker-not a peace maker

4. Six things the Lord Hates—Seven are an abomination...

- a) The 7th: **“one who sows discord among brethren.”** (Prov. 6:16)
NIV: **“a person who stirs up conflict...”**
- b) Some People Are Always Stirring Up Conflict—
- c) Their easily offended, making accusations, causing trouble, dividing people
- d) Whether it's in a church, a family, a marriage or a community
—it is an abomination to the Lord!

5. When one falls away... Galatians 6:1-2 **“you who are spiritual...”**

- a) WHY? because one with spiritual maturity has the understanding to Help
- b) And the understanding to not be enticed to fall away

B. WE NEED UNDERSTANDING DEALING WITH CONTROVERSIES

1. 2020 Had Had More than it's Share of Controversies...

- a) The Origins of the Virus—Man-made or Not?
- b) Do we Quarantine the sick or are we going to Quarantine the Healthy?
- c) Masks or no masks?
- d) The Police, the Violence, the Riots, the Looting, the Fires
- e) Then the Disputed Election...
- f) Next will be the Various COVID-19 Vaccines!

2. **Agreeing on every detail, of every aspect of every controversy is unrealistic**

- a) We might as well ALL try to agree on what Temperature the thermostat is set at
- b) In Another Lesson We Will Look At Paul's Instructions on Accepting One Another
Even With Differences of Opinion

3. But Let's Understand One Thing About Controversy...

Controversy is Often a Distraction from the Truth

- a) **EXAMPLE: A Former Police Officer Explains the Tactics of Thieves Illustrations...**
- b) They enter the store as a group. One or two separate themselves from the group, and the others start a loud commotion in another section of the store.
- c) This grabs the attention of the clerks and customers. As all eyes are turned to the disturbance, the accomplices fill their pockets with merchandise and cash, leaving before anyone suspects.
- d) Hours—sometimes even days—later, the victimized merchant realizes things are missing and calls the police. Too late. (Tom McHaffie)

4. Satan Uses the Same Strategy—to Seduce us by Distractions, while our churches are ransacked. (1 Timothy 1:4; 6:3-5)

- a) Jesus said, the Thief Only Comes to Steal, Kill and Destroy...
- b) The Enemy Steals Our Joy, Kills our Hope and then Destroys Our Future
- c) Jesus came that We May Have Life—abundant Life
 - (1) Joy of Salvation
 - (2) Set Free by the Truth
 - (3) Forgiven and Loved by God

C. **WE NEED UNDERSTANDING FOR MARRIAGE**

1. We Need Understanding within our Marriage Relationship (1 Peter 3:7-8)

- a) **Lisa's Parents Ron & Brenda were on Vacation when they were pulled over**
 - 1) It was a speed trap and the police officer walked up and asked Ron where he was going
 - 2) Ron said it's our 50th anniversary and were headed from Virginia Beach to Hilton Head
 - 3) Police Officer Looked at Brenda and said, "Has he been good to you for 50 yrs?"
 - 4) She said, "Yes he has" - The Officer said, alright you guys go on!
- b) **I told Ron, Abraham asked his wife to lie to get him off the hook, but Brenda didn't have to lie to get you off the hook...**
 - 1) And He Said Well I'm not so sure :)
 - 2) Ron Understood She Bailed Him Out of a Bad Situation!
- c) **Brenda Would Never Lie—But She Always Forgives!**

2. Marriage is Already Hard but a Year of Covid Isolation Only Makes it Harder

- a) A Social Scientist who studied Families in the Radio-active cloud that spread from Chernobyl (Masten) Called it a "**Massive FEAR VECTOR**" that spreads from a dramatic event.
- b) **Like the Fallout of Chernobyl—We Are Under A MASSIVE FEAR VECTOR Now**—Affecting Marriages, Families and Children.
And like Nuclear Radiation, COVID-19 is invisible—but the Fear is not
- c) A Sociologist (Glen Elder) who worked w/ families and children during the Great Depression found that even during an economic collapse, Marital

harmony, and by extension, attentive parenting, could be maintained ***if the mother made herself, in effect, the human barrier between the stresses of the outside world and the refuge of the home.***

d) Economic pressures would then fall on the breadwinner husband, but ***‘as long as the wife supported the husband, there was a lot less chaos in the home’*** and kids would do better. (Children of Quarantine –NY Mag 11/20)

3. This Fear Vector Affects Everyone—but in different ways...

**4. Since Our Spouse Knows us better than anyone else—
and we know them better than anyone else...**

- a) We should be able to understand one another better than anyone else!
- b) If one had a bad day, the other should be able to understand and give some grace
- c) One May internalize stress—they get quiet.
- d) The Other Needs to Verbalize their stress—they can’t be quiet!
- e) We Need the Understanding to Help One Another!

5. The Truth is—a Husband and Wife should COMPLETE One Another...

Not COMPETE with One Another

- a) And They Do Complete One Another—When the Don’t Compete w/ one another.
- b) It is a Division of Roles That Help Each Other and the Family as a Whole

6. I love it when a Brother in Christ puts things in perspective!

- a) “I let my wife make the small decisions like where we are going live,
and I make the big decisions, like whether we should invade Iran or not”
- b) > So Honey—Let Me Make the Geo-Political Decisions!

D. FOR PATIENCE WITH MISUNDERSTANDINGS

1. We Need Understanding to be able to Have Patience with One Another

- a) Two of the Women in the Philippians Congregation were not getting along
- b) Paul mentions them by Name! (**Philippians 4:2–3**)
- c) Imagine if you were Remembered for Not Getting Along w/ others!

2. We Live in a Broken World—and we are all broken in some way

- a) And Broken people have sharp edges that hurt...
- b) **We Are Not Called to Be Difficult with One Another**

We Are Called to Love One Another (Ephesians 4:1–2 NIV)

E. WE NEED UNDERSTANDING FOR ENCOURAGEMENT

1. We Need Understanding to be able to Encourage One Another

2. It’s Hard to Encourage One Another Without Having Understanding

**3. Satan Wants You Discouraged—but We Are Commanded to Encourage
One Another (**1 Thessalonians 5:9–11**)**

**4. In Fact—Did You Know That When You Encourage One in the Faith, you’re
participating in something God does for us?! (**Heb 10:24-25 NIV**)**

- a) **The Greek word here for encourage is Parakaleo: to call along side**
Closely related to Paraklētos advocate, or comforter, counsellor, helper

b) It literally means: Someone to stand by you and help and strengthen you...

5. It is used of Jesus as our Advocate and the Holy Spirit as our Comforter

a) As a Child of God You Are Not Alone and Will Never Be Alone!

F. WE NEED UNDERSTANDING TO SYMPATHIZE

1. We Need Understanding to be able to Sympathize with One Another

a) Husbands Sympathize with your wife...

b) Wives, sympathize with your Husbands

c) Parents, Sympathize with your Children and Children w/ your parents

2. Be Kind to Everyone, for you don't know what they're going through

a) EX: Steven Covey told about being on a bus in the city and some children were running up and down the isles being loud and obnoxious.

b) Passengers were getting irritated and the atmosphere was getting tense.

c) Covey could see the father wasn't doing anything to calm his kids down

d) Covey turned and told the father his children were causing passengers to be upset

e) The father was deep in concentration and when he realized what Covey said, he replied, Oh, I guess they are being loud, I don't know what they are going to do... we just came back from the hospital, their mom is dying.

3. We Should Sympathize Because Jesus Sympathizes with Us! (Heb 4:14-16)

G. WE NEED UNDERSTANDING TO FORGIVE

1. We Need Understanding in order to Forgive One Another

a) When Jesus taught the disciples to pray, it Begins with God, Heaven and Earth
Then Us: Past, Present and Future

b) And in it He says: "And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors." (Mt 6:12)

c) Then—to Make This Point Crystal Clear!

"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." (6:14)

2. I Need the Understanding to see the speck in my brothers eye...

but also to see the beam in my own Eye! (Ephesians 4:32)

H. WE NEED UNDERSTANDING TO HELP EACH OTHER GET TO HEAVEN

1. The Enemy Wants Us Distracted, Divided and Discouraged...

2. Rather Than Letting Distractions Divide Us—

"Let's keep the main thing the main thing."

CONCLUSION:

1. Let's Help One Another Get to Heaven! (1 Thessalonians 5:9-11)

2. This is Why Jesus Went to the Cross for our sins! (Romans 5:9-10)