

# PREPARED TO LIVE IN VICTORY: CHRISTIAN LOVE SHOWN

Houses of Light Church • July 15-16, 2023 • Pastor Netz Gómez

1 Pet. 5:13-14

**"She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son. <sup>14</sup> Greet one another with the kiss of love. Amen"**

## I. INTRODUCTION

- A. At the beginning of this section there are things that we don't know exactly what they refer to; when he says "**Babylon**" it is usually considered that he is talking about the church that was in Rome that Peter refers to as the "**chosen one**" in this city and Peter is sending greetings from this church to the other churches that are in Pontus, Galatia, Asia, Cappadocia and Bithynia (**1 Pet. 1:1**).
- B. The other possible meaning, according to some commentators, is that it was Peter's wife who had also been chosen and who was actually in Babylon because it is said that in the first century there was a small Jewish community in that city. We also do not know if Marcos, to whom Pedro refers, is the one who arrived at the house of María, Juan's mother..

**Acts 12:12 "When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying."**

- C. According to some historians, Marcos became Peter's interpreter; so when he says 'my son' he may be referring not so much to a biological son as to a spiritual mark. In the event that he was talking about his wife, he could also mention his biological son, this is not clear, but **what is clear is how Pedro is concluding his letter with a greeting and tells them: "greet each other with a Kiss of love."**
- D. This exhortation of Pedro does not seem to be a commandment to kiss each other when we meet, but rather that we have a love that is expressed and we know it because it has been something that Pedro has insisted on several times in his letter:

**1 Pet. 1:22 "Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart."**

**1 Pet. 2:17 "Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood..."**

**1 Pet. 4:8 "Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins."**

- E. We cannot ignore the fact that Peter wants to emphasize that the true grace of God creates a divine family in which God is our Father and we are His sons and daughters; brothers and sisters who are distinguished by loving each other, not only by obligation or by a formality but with a brotherly love that seeks to find ways that fit the culture and that can include a holy kiss. It is something that Paul also recommends to the other churches (Rom. 16:16; 1 Cor. 16:20; 2 Cor. 13:12; 1 Thes. 5:26).
- F. I thank God that Houses of Light is a community that is not afraid to hug or express affection. You can notice that there is a deep affection that is warm and sweet, which is even more expressed when we know that there are people who are

going through difficult times and in those circumstances we get closer to each other. It is surprising how this letter that encourages us to suffer for the cause of Christ is summarized as the true grace of God that is expressed with greetings full of affection.

## II. BEWARE OF COLD LOVE

**Matt. 24:12-13 "And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. <sup>13</sup> But the one who endures to the end will be saved."**

- A. In today's world, the love of many Christians is cooling off and a question we can ask ourselves to reflect on if this is happening to us would be: **Does our love grow and become more tender, more detailed, more daring and more visible? Or, on the contrary, has our love become more contemptuous, more calculating, more distant, less vulnerable and available? This fact is very important, because our Christianity is only as true as our love. We can enjoy a certain material abundance, but if our relationships and more particularly our love have not grown or are cooling off, we are not yet truly successful.**
- B. One of the main areas of spiritual warfare that has come against the church is in the realm of relationships. **Love is a passion for unity.** A measurable decline can be seen when our capacity to love diminishes which is evidence that a stronghold of bitterness has developed within us.

- C. Lack of forgiveness shuts down the power of prayer and impedes the flow of healing. In fact, where there is a persistent unforgiveness in a person, family or community, the demon world, the tormentors, have full access.

**Jas. 3:16 "For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice."**

- D. The Scriptures warn us not to allow a root of bitterness to sprout and many to be defiled. It can happen to us that someone told us about something that was done to them and we are more resentful than the person who suffered the affront. We can form a negative opinion of someone even though they deserve it and allow that to crystallize into a bad attitude.

**Heb. 12:15 "See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled."**

- E. Bitterness is a revenge that has not been fulfilled. They may have hurt us very deeply but if we fail to react with love and forgiveness, if we permanently keep the offense, that unresolved conflict will steal from our hearts and the capacity to love **which will lead us to become part of that group that Jesus spoke of whose love has gone cold.**
- F. To deal with this, the only valid alternative is to genuinely forgive the one who has hurt us. **The painful experience was allowed by God to teach us how to love our enemies. If we do not forgive someone who offended us, we have failed the test. God has given the answer to our pain and it is love, which means receiving love from him and giving it to others. Maybe we don't like what someone has done to us but the Bible gives us no other option than to forgive and love.**
- G. **Love without commitment is not love:** Many who have not understood the power of a covenant are afraid to commit to each other. Someone says "I loved

someone, but that brought me wounds; or I got engaged but they abused me." And that way people back out of the engagement without realizing that their love is growing cold. They are still together but they no longer connect, they have no details, they have become distant and cold love begins to be their prison.

H. When we refuse to forgive our hearts not only harden towards that person but also towards God; we can say I am open to God but not to that person, but the Scripture is very clear:

1 Jn. 4:20 "If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot[a] love God whom he has not seen."

I. There will be many small things that the enemy will magnify and see as great offenses. Those small faults will make them justify their isolation and withdraw from people. The kingdom of God is not based only on doctrines; It is grounded in relationship with God and with others. Those who live in the kingdom of God are those who overcome the obstacles of each other's failures and help each other to become what God has called us to be, a kingdom family and a victorious community..

### III. OVERVIEW OF GOD'S SAVING PURPOSE IN 1 PETER

A. To conclude the letter we are going to try to put together everything that Peter tells us that has happened in the Christian life and what is the goal above all else:

1. Our GOD is a Father of great mercy and grace (1 Pet. 1:2, 10, 13; 3:7; 4:10; 5:5, 12)
2. CHRIST had been destined from before the foundation of the world:
  - a) Jesus was manifested in the flesh and died in our place on the cross (1 Pet. 1:18-20; 2:2, 24; 3:18; 4:1)
  - b) God raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory (1 Pet. 1:20-21; 3:21-22).
3. GOD CHOSE US AS HIS PEOPLE FOR HIMSELF (1 Pet. 1:1; 2:9)
  - a) The gospel has been preached to us (1 Pet. 1:12; 23-25)
  - b) God sent us the Holy Spirit from him from heaven (1 Pet. 1:12).
4. God MADE US BORN AGAIN; AND HE HAS GIVEN US PRECIOUS PROMISES (1 Pet. 1:23; 4:11):
  - a) That He will keep and care for us (1 Pet. 1:5; 2:25; 3:12; 4:19).
  - b) That He will take us to glory (1 Pet. 4:13; 5:1, 4, 10).
  - c) That He will judge our enemies (1 Pet. 4:5, 17; 5:5).
5. God has given us NEW AFFECTIONS that arose through the new birth:
  - a) Humility came to us (1 Pet. 3:8; 5:5-6)
  - b) The fear of God came into our hearts (1 Pet. 1:17; 2:18; 3:1-1)
  - c) Love and reverence for Christ arose in us (1 Pet. 1:8; 3:15)
  - d) Faith in God was born in us (1 Pet. 1:5; 7-8, 9, 21; 2:7; 5:9).

- e) Hope in the grace promised by God came to us (1 Pet. 1:3, 13; 3:5, 15).
  - f) An unspeakable joy came to our being (1 Pet. 1:6, 8, 4:9, 13; 5:2).
  - g) A sense of freedom from shame, human domination, and anxiety was awakened (1 Pet. 2:16; 4:16; 5:7).
  - h) Courage arose in us (1 Pet. 3:6, 14).
  - i) A disposition to be docile and sensitive came to us (1 Pet. 3:8, 15; 4:16).
  - j) A brotherly affection for other Christians came to us (1 Pet. 1:22; 2:17; 3:7 4:8).
6. These new affects gave rise to a **NEW BEHAVIOR** marked by:
- a) Fervent prayer for God's help (1 Pet. 3:12; 4:7)
  - b) The proclamation of the excellencies of Christ (1 Pet. 2:9).
  - c) Holiness that abstains from worldly practices (1 Pet. 1:14-15; 2:11; 4:3).
  - d) Endure unjust suffering with a God-conscious meekness (1 Pet. 2:19-20; 3:14, 17, 19).
  - e) Blessing our adversaries instead of taking revenge on them (1 Pet. 3:9)
  - f) Overflowing with productive good deeds (1 Pet. 2:12; 20; 3:17; 4:19).
  - g) Unbelievers see the new behavior, and God willing, they will be silenced, shamed, moved to ask about our hope, won over, and brought to glorify God. (1 Pet. 2:12, 15; 3:1, 14, 15).
7. Therefore, by God's design in all things, **LET US DEMONSTRATE AND PRAISE GOD'S GLORY AND DOMINION.** (1 Pet. 4:16; 5:11).

#### IV. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Do you consider that you have a love that expresses affection to others? Explain
2. Do you consider that your love is growing, becoming more tender, more detailed, more daring and more evident, or that it has cooled down? Explain
3. Pray to ask the Lord to show you if there is any kind of resentment in your heart for someone and pray releasing forgiveness and blessing that person(s)..

#### THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Level 3 in Spanish online of the Effective Parenting Course begins this Wednesday, July 19. Please register at the information table or at [www.centrodeasesoriafamiliar.org](http://www.centrodeasesoriafamiliar.org)
2. Prophecy and healing rooms, open this Wednesday, July 19 and Thursday, July 20, respectively, at 7:00 p.m. Please register at [www.nhop.la](http://www.nhop.la)
3. Marketplace Ministry Meeting Saturday July 22 at 8:00 a.m. with Mike Rovner and Bob Harrison. If you are new, please use the QR code on the screen to register.
4. The "GenZ for Jesus" event will be on September 9 at the Angelus Temple. Volunteers are requested to support logistics, please scan the QR code on the screens.