

# INSIGHTS ON 1 PETER: HOPE AGAIN: WHEN LIFE HURTS AND DREAMS

## FADE

### HOPE BEYOND DIVISION: REASONS FOR PULLING TOGETHER

1 PETER 1:22-2:3



#### The Heart of the Matter

Regrettably, we Christians are not known for our support of one another. Instead of being loyal and fiercely committed to each other, we tend to look for ways to pick at one another, to put down rather than defend. How strange! The early church was not like that. Though scattered by persecution and attacked on all fronts, they pulled together and found strength in one another's presence. Theirs was a circle that refused to be broken or weakened from within. In our day of "brother bashing" and "sister smashing," we all need reminders about the importance of pulling together. These verses give several.



#### Discovering the Way

##### 1. Unity: An Almost-Forgotten Virtue

Believers are supposed to exhibit unity, diversity, and humility in their relationships with each other like Jesus Christ did in His relationship with the Father. Likewise, Paul commanded unity for all believers so they might be conformed to Christ.

##### 2. Love: A Never-to-Be-Forgotten Command (1 Peter 1:22)

Obedience to the truth, purity of soul, and sincerity that lacks hypocrisy make possible true love and unity among believers.



#### Starting Your Journey

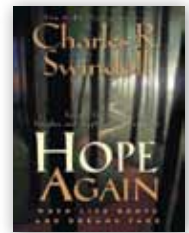
The following four reminders from 1 Peter 1:23-2:3 can help us avoid conflict and remain unified. Remember that we are children of the same Father, that we take our instruction from the same source, that we have our struggles in the same realm, and that we focus our attention on the same objective.



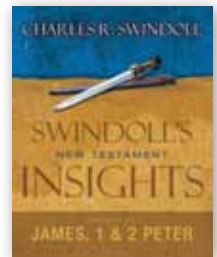
#### Tools for Digging Deeper



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