

“Blessings of Serving One Another in God’s Grace” Pt 1 (1 Pet 4:7-11)

- These commands are the frame work of this passage
- 1) Be sober-minded & self-controlled for the sake of your prayers (4:7b)
- 2) Love each othr constntly & unceasnly, & so put a covr over sins (4:8)

I. Sobriety & Soundness for the Sake of Our Prayers (v7)

- **“The end of all things is at hand”** Peter doesn’t say when the end is
- Peter’s focus is not on the timing of the end but how we live in light of it
- The final phase of the redemption plan of God through Christ & the Spirit
- Peter: **therefore** be **“self-controlled & sober-minded for...your prayers”**
- **Be sober minded**: to see things for what they really are and act appropriately
- **Self-controlled**: sobriety, alertness, mentally disciplined, remain calm
- Why are these two qualities necessary for us: **for the sake of your prayers**
- Prayer: “petition” – this prayer lays hold of God for grace & strength

II. Love, the Fruit of Our Prayers & the Grace of Our Service (8)

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multtude of sins

- Vs. 8 **“all things”** connects with vs. 7 the **“end of all things is at hand”**
- In light of this reality, as Christ’s people **“above all”** keep loving each other
- sober mindedness, self-control is critical to prayer which is the key to love
- love is key: the Church is a society of sinners redeemed by God’s grace
- Because we are sinners, we take offence and give offence when there is none
- Love is crucial because love covers a multitude of sins (Prov. 10:12)
- Peter, an eye witness of such love, asked Jesus about this love (Matt 18:21)