

How to Attract Flies



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The old saying "You catch more flies with honey than you do with vinegar" fits perfectly with Peter's letter. He's been telling Christians how to live in plain view of the unbelieving world

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Now he goes into the church and tells us how to treat each other. It's his hope that an exhibition of real, Christian love will provide a base of satisfying fellowship for us and attract unbelievers. But how?

The Profile of a Born Again Believer

1. Be of one mind, or like-minded

Does not mean uniformity

"If two people agree on everything, one of them isn't thinking"

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Early church disagreements and arguments

Paul and Barnabas argued over John Mark (Acts 15:37-39)

Apostles argued over who would be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven (Mark 9:33-34, Luke 22:24)

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Having one mind = cooperation in the midst of
diversity

Jesus prayed for this (John 17:20-21)

We must agree on the core issues of Christianity

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2. Having compassion

Sumpathes (Greek), meaning to feel an emotion or to hurt together

First, think the same things; now, feel the same things

"Your hurt in my heart"

Romans 12:15, 1 Corinthians 12:26

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3.Love as brothers

Or, love one another as brothers *should*

Perhaps Peter had Andrew in mind as he wrote this

1 John 3:14

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4. Be tenderhearted

Eusplagchnos (Greek), literally meaning having good bowels; intestines, kidneys, or guts were where the deepest emotions were believed to have resided

Be deeply concerned for others

The church ought to be the place where the walking wounded feel at home

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5. Be courteous

Or *be humble-minded*; this was considered weakness
in Greco-Roman culture

Humility is the grease that keeps the gears of
relationships running smoothly

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"I used to think that God's gifts were on shelves one above the other and the taller you grew in Christian grace, the more easily you could take them. I have now come to realize that God's gifts are on shelves one below the other, and it's not a matter of growing taller but of stooping lower" —paraphrased from

F.B. Meyer