

1 Peter 4:1-11

Main Idea: A Christian's response in times of oppression.

V. 1 Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, [2] so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.

MODEL CHRIST IN YOUR SUFFERING

SUFFERING COMES WHEN WE LIVE FOR GOD AND NOT FOR US

- I. He assumes we'll suffer because we're in Christ. Our lifestyle is contrary to the world's lifestyle.
- II. The more our lives align with Christ's life, the more opposition we'll face.
 - a. "Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution" (2 Timothy 3:12)
 - b. [18] "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. [19] If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. [20] Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. (John 15:18-20 ESV)
- III. *WHY DO THEY PERSECUTE?* "For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed" (John 3:20)
- IV. This doesn't mean that we'll stop sinning after we suffer. Verse two clarifies that statement. It means: Whoever suffers, suffers because they live for the will of God. He's pointing back to this fact that following Christ brings opposition.
- V. Where is your opposition? Could a lack of opposition be a reflection of your walk with Christ?

V. 3 For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. [4] With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; [5] but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. [6] For this is why

the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does.

BELIEVERS ARE CALLED TO A HIGHER STANDARD THAN THEIR OLD LIVES

- I. Now that you're living for the will of God, you no longer participate in the sins that unbelievers participate in. Your life should look differently.
- II. Not only will your life look different but you'll face verbal opposition. "THEY MALIGN YOU"
 - a. How do you respond to being maligned? (Maligned = to speak evil of)
 - b. Peter shows us how to respond. He reminds us that God is the judge, not us. God takes care of it in the end. When we're maligned, we need to rest in the gospel (Christ suffered and entrusted himself to God, therefore I will. God will judge them or Christ like he did with me)

V. 7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.

BECAUSE CHRIST IS COMING BACK, LIVE LIKE IT

- I. Christ is returning and our lives should reflect it.
- II. We should be self-controlled (self-controlled = self-restrained)
- III. We should be sober-minded (sober-minded = to be soberly vigilant)

V. 8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

LOVE COVERS A MULTITUDE OF OTHER PEOPLES SINS

- I. James 5:20 let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.
- II. Peter is showing us that God preserves us to the end through community. We're called to love our brothers and sisters in such a way that when they (or even us) stray away from Christ, we love them so much that they return.
- III. Are there wanderers in your life? Are you reaching out to them?

V. 9 Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. [10] As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: [11] whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves,

as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

USE YOUR GIFTS FOR GOD'S GLORY

- I. Hospitality = generous to guest. If someone looked at your life, would they say he/she is generous to guests?
- II. Not only should we do it, but we should do it without grumbling (murmuring)
- III. In Christ, we've ALL received gifts
- IV. How should we use it? "to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace"
 - i. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7 ESV)
 - ii. And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. (Ephesians 4:11-12;15-16 ESV)
- V. Driscoll states: The gifts of God are dispensed through the Spirit of God so that the church of God can minister like the Son of God.
- VI. *How do you find your gift?* Russell Moore: In the New Testament, we don't find our gift through self-examination and introspection and then find ways to express it. Instead, we love one another, serve one another, help one another, and in so doing we see how God has equipped us to do so.
- VII. What's your gift and are you being a good steward of it? Is it being use regularly? Is it being used rightly?