

Yes, There's Pain. But, Oh So Much Gain.

November 5, 2018

Live Different

GODLY LIVING IN AN UNGODLY WORLD

Open: What's something you often have to do that you really don't like doing? Why do you do it?

Read & Discuss: 1 Peter 4:1-11

1. Peter calls us to "arm [ourselves]" with Christ's thinking, who "suffered in the flesh" (v. 1). Based on what we've learned so far in 1 Peter, how would you describe the way that Christ thought which enabled him to endure suffering? How do we arm ourselves with this kind of thinking?
2. How would you rephrase verse 3, including sins that might be similar to those mentioned, but that are more common in our culture today?
3. In verses 5-6, what does Peter want believers to remember that will help them resist pressure by others to sin? Share about an experience when you were maligned or mistreated because you refused to go along with encouragement to sin. What motivated you to not give in?
4. Considering the theme of this passage, what do you think Peter means when he tells us to "be self-controlled and sober-minded" (v. 7)? What would be the opposite of this instruction?
5. From verse 8, what does it mean to love one another "earnestly"? What can make doing this difficult? How do you work at showing love to those you find difficult to love? How would Peter's instructions in verse 1 help you to do this better?
6. What are some ways that we can exercise hospitality in today's culture (v. 9)? In light of Peter's instructions here, why would we show hospitality when it's not what we would choose?
7. Verses 10-11 calls us to use our gifts to serve one another. Why might we at times resist doing this? How do we do this in the "strength that God supplies"?
8. Jesus' way of thinking included doing what's right and enduring suffering by focusing on the joy that was set before him (*Hebrews 12:2*). How would you describe the opportunities for joy that are before us?

For Personal Reflection: Is there a particular sin that you've been reluctant to cease from, or a particular act of love for others that you've been hesitant to engage in? What should you do?

Pray: Pray that we would be people who arm ourselves with the same way of thinking as Christ so that we avoid all that God despises and instead do all that God loves.

1 Peter 4:1-11.

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.

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.

⁷ The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. ⁸ Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 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. (ESV)