

1 Peter

Week 7: Living for God's Will

Scripture

1 Peter 4:1-11

Review

In the first 3 chapters, Peter has walked us through...

- **Living as chosen exiles** - a people marked by hope in suffering, holiness in conduct, and humility under authority
- **Being faithful witnesses in every area of life** - how we live under government, at work, in marriage, and even when we're wronged
- **Viewing suffering as meaningful** - it refines our faith and reveals Christ's character through us.

When we respond to suffering like Jesus, the world sees a Savior who still redeems the broken.

Motivation

But Peter isn't finished.

He shifts the focus from *enduring suffering* to *living transformed because of it*.

If Christ suffered for us, what does that mean for how we live for Him?

Here's the tension: **we can't live for *comfort* and *Christ* at the same time.**

Peter will call his readers to...

- Abandon sin
- Use their time wisely
- Serve one another with urgency (because the end of all things is near)

The question before us now is this...

If we truly believe that Christ suffered and died for our sins, rose from the dead to defeat sin and death, and that He will one day return again for us...

*How should our lives look different **today**?*

Information

How should we live differently today?

▪ **Leave the old life behind in favor of a new one in Christ**

- ✓ We should no longer be held captive by sin

1 Peter 4:1 (ESV) 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...

“...being identified with Christ demonstrates his break with a sinful life.” – Bible Knowledge Commentary

Romans 6:5 (NLT) Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was. **6** We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. **7** For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin.

- ✓ We should embrace our new life in Christ

1 Peter 4:2 (ESV) ...so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.

- ✓ We should not be pulled back into the old life

1 Peter 4:3 (ESV) For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality [*indulgence in sensual pleasure*], passions [*lust for forbidden things*], drunkenness [*private drunkenness*], orgies [*unrestrained sexual sin*], drinking parties [*communal drunkenness*], and lawless idolatry [*misplaced affection for anything other than God*].

- ✓ We should expect to be harassed by those who were a part of our old life

1 Peter 4:4 (ESV) With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you...

- ✓ We should fear the One who judges, rather than fearing what man says

1 Peter 4:5 (ESV) ...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.

“Although some maintain that Peter offers a second chance after death for those who rejected Christ, this view is untenable since it contradicts both the clear teaching of Scripture throughout the rest of the Bible...Given the immediate context, ‘those who are dead’ refers to Christians to whom ‘the gospel was preached’ when they were alive but who have since died. Even though believers will experience physical death, believers who have died live in the spirit the way God does.” – ESV Study Bible

■ **Live out faith through your actions**

1 Peter 4:7 (ESV) 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.

✓ Be self-controlled and sober-minded

“To be ‘self-controlled and sober-minded’ implies here not to be swept away by emotions or passions, thus maintaining a proper eternal perspective on life. The doctrine of the imminent return of Christ should not turn the Christian into a zealous fanatic who does nothing but wait for it to occur. Instead, it should lead the believer into a watchful pursuit of holiness. Moreover, a watchful attitude creates a pilgrim mentality. It reminds the Christian that he is a citizen of heaven only sojourning on earth.” – MacArthur Study Bible

✓ Love each other practically and be willing to overlook the faults of others

✓ Be willingly generous to others with what God has given you

■ **Serve one another well**

1 Peter 4:10 (ESV) 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.

✓ Every believer has a gift

- Whatever He’s given you (time, skill, influence, compassion) He expects you to use it to serve others

- Serving isn’t about position; it’s about participation

✓ Serve with God’s strength, not your own

- If you speak, speak like you’re carrying God’s words

- If you serve, serve like you’re driven by His power

- The point isn’t to impress - it’s to depend

✓ The goal isn’t applause - it’s God’s glory

- Everything we do (teaching, greeting, fixing, leading) should point people back to Jesus

- He gets the credit; we get the joy