

LIVING FOR GOD

Sunday, February 15, 2026 -- 1 Peter Series -- Msg 28 -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

1 PETER 4:1-6

English Standard Version (ESV)

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.

OVERVIEW & CONTEXT:

- The **Apostle Peter** is writing to Christians who are being persecuted for their faith.
- Peter calls them to live a holy life amidst their suffering.
- In our previous message he does a **deep dive** on Christ's suffering for our salvation.
- We saw that God saves his people **not from judgment** but through judgment.
- We identify ourselves with the death of Christ (we die to self) so we may also identify ourselves with the life of Christ (both now and eternal).
- We do this through faith in Jesus (**not ourselves**).

CENTRAL IDEA/THOUGHT:

Because Christ suffered to save us (3:18–22), believers must decisively identify with Him in mindset and lifestyle—rejecting former sinful patterns and living consciously for the will and glory of God, even when misunderstood or maligned.

This passage moves from Christ's saving suffering (3:18–22) to the Believer's sanctifying suffering (4:1–6).

Peter moves from theology to application—from **what Christ did** to **how we now live**.

I. ARM YOURSELF WITH THE MIND OF CHRIST v. 1a

"Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking..."

A. The Foundation: Christ suffered in the flesh

Peter roots his call to you in redemptive history.

Christ's suffering was:

- **Substitutionary** (3:18 — *"the righteous for the unrighteous"*)
- **Bodily and real** (in the flesh)
- **Victorious** — His victory over sin and death brings your salvation (3:22)

This is not mere example—it is saving accomplishment.

1 PETER 4:1-2

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.*

B. The Command: “**Arm yourselves!**” vs 1

This is military language. Deliberate. Prepared. Resolved.

The Christian life requires a conscious, settled mindset:

“*the same way of thinking*” —

This mindset that embraces obedience even if it leads to suffering.

- **Philippians 2:5–8** – “*Have this mind among yourselves that was in Christ...*”
- **Romans 12:1–2** -- Paul speaking...
1 *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.* 2 *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*
- **Hebrews 12:2–3** consider Him who endured from sinners such hostility...

C.H. Spurgeon -- “***Suffering sharpens the believer’s separation from the world.***”

C. The Result: **A Break with Sin** vs 1

“*whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin*”

Not sinless perfection (1 John 1:8), but a decisive break in your allegiance.

Peter’s point:

The believer who is willing to suffer rather than sin demonstrates that sin no longer reigns.

- **Romans 6:1–14**
What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.
- **Galatians 2:20** – Paul speaking... *I have been crucified with Christ*
- **Colossians 3:3–5**
³For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. ⁵Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

John Calvin -- “***Suffering often fortifies the sincerity of repentance.***”

II. LIVE FOR THE WILL OF GOD, NOT THE PASSIONS OF MEN :

VS 2-3 *"to live for the rest of the time... no longer for human passions but for the will of God."*

Here are two opposing masters. You will serve one or the other.

A. Your former life is enough... vs 3 *For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do*

Pagan life pursuits: *sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, lawless idolatry.*

This was common Roman pagan culture.

It is common American pagan culture.

As it led to emptiness, destruction and death then, it does so now.

But there is freedom! Ephesians 2:1-3; Titus 3:3-7; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

It is not about moral superiority -- it is grateful deliverance.

Peter's point: Christian, you don't owe sin another hour!

B. You Have a New Master: The Will of God vs 2

Living for God is not vague spirituality—it is submission to His revealed will.

- **1 Thessalonians 4:3** – *"This is the will of God, your sanctification."*
- **Matthew 7:21** – *not everyone who says "Lord" will enter the kingdom of heaven...*
- **John 14:15** – *"If you love me, you will keep my commandments."*

III. Expect Misunderstanding & Rejection from the World vs 4

"With respect to this they are surprised... and they malign you."

The world is not confused because you sin. It is confused because you don't.

Your holiness is a silent rebuke.

- **John 15:18-20**

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.

- **2 Timothy 3:12** – *all who desire to live godly lives in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.*
- **Matthew 5:11-12** Jesus speaking...
¹¹ "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Peter's point: Expect suffering. It is a mark of union with Christ.

IV. REMEMBER THE COMING JUDGMENT AND LIVING HOPE . v. 5-6

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.*

A. God Will Judge vs 5

No injustice escapes Him.

- **Acts 17:31** – *because He has fixed a day on which he will judge the world*
- **Romans 14:10–12** – *So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.*
- **2 Corinthians 5:10**

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

Peter's point: Believers can trust the sovereignty and justice of God.

B. The Gospel Triumphs Over Death ! v 6

“that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does.”

Likely referring to believers who have died physically.

Though condemned by worldly courts or subjected to physical death, they live eternally.

- **John 11:25–26** – Jesus speaking to Martha in front of Lazarus' tomb
²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”
- **Romans 8:10–11**
10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.
- **2 Corinthians 4:16–18**
16 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. 17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

All this ties directly back to 1 Peter 3:18:

Christ was *“put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.”*

True Believers follow the same pattern!

QUESTIONS FOR MEDITATION / APPLICATION:

- *How are you sometimes tempted to live for God as a moral reformation?*
(Is that right or wrong to do?)
- *How is living for God in grateful identification with a crucified and risen Savior different than that?*