

Deeper Walk with God - 1 and 2 Peter
Entrusting all to Him

1 Peter 4:1-19

Christ above all means?

- Some say "health and wealth"
- Some say - "death and suffering"
- Some say - "foolishness and folly"

We say peace and fulfillment

I. Changed by Faith in Christ **1 Peter 4:1-6**

2 Corinthians 5:17 *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*

A. New Calling **1-3**

- Since Christ died for us - we can live for Him
- "No longer" follow after sin
- "The time has passed" We are dead to sin
- Licentiousness- without sense of moral restraint

B. New Crowd **4-5**

"It does not matter how your good deeds are received by men. If you are like God, you will find them received with contempt and ingratitude." (Meyer)

- They will rejoice in every sin but have contempt for the right
- They will slander you - shame you - speak evil of you

C. New Course **6**

- Live in the Spirit - He is our corrector, teacher and guide
- According to the will of God

II. Committed to the Family of Christ **1 Peter 4:7-11,**

1 John 3:1 *See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.*

A. Holding each other in love **7-8**

- We have limited time - commit to pray for each other
- Love covers (forgives) sins of others

"Where love abounds in a fellowship of Christians, many small offences, and even some large ones, are readily overlooked and forgotten. But where love is lacking, every word is viewed with suspicion, every action is liable to misunderstanding, and conflicts about - to Satan's perverse delight." (Grudem)

B. Hosting each other **9**

- Hospitality is the mark of true believers

Done without pomp or grumbling

C. Helping each other serve the Lord **10-11**

- Using the spiritual gifts God has given you
- Each one has them according to His will **1 Corinthians 12:11**
- Serving each other through the grace of God
- All for the glory of God

III. Challenged as Followers of Christ **1 Peter 4:12-19**

Romans 5:3-5 *Not only so, but we^{1a} also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.*

A. Anticipate suffering as a testing **12**

- We should not be surprised - Christ warned us **John 15:18-21**
- Tested as gold - through fire

B. Acclaim suffering as a blessing **13-14**

- Rejoice to be able to suffer for Christ **Acts 5:41**
- We will rejoice with Him at His revelation
- When reviled we are treated as Christ was
- We can rejoice in the Spirit of glory and God

Josh Billings once wrote, "Life is a grindstone, and whether it grinds a man down or polishes him up depends on the stuff he's made of."

C. Accept suffering as His discipline **15-18**

- 2 Corinthian 1:8-9** We learn to rely on God - not ourselves
- Persecution is allowed from God to purify our hearts and lives
- If we face judgment - think of those without Christ
- We endure by His grace and glory in us.

D. Assign suffering into God's hands **19**

- We suffer according to the will of God
- Not His making always but allowed in our lives
- We should entrust - deposit our lives in His bank **2 Timothy 1:12**
- He is faithful - He never fails
- He is creator - He created us to bring glory to Him

Three "Therefore"s in this passage

1 - Christ died for our sins - therefore - live separate from sin

7 - Time is limited - therefore - do all you can to lift up others

19 - Hardships come to us - therefore - entrust all to God