

Title: What are You Living For?

Text: 1 Peter 4:1-6

CONNECT: October 17, 2021

Connect to One Another:

- Operation 37:31 Memory Challenge: In large group or small groups, have someone share from memory Rom. 8:31. Discuss the implications of this verse. Rehearse Romans 8:28-30.
- How is it possible to live under persecution without fear, but with joy? What keeps you from living like that? How does Christ's absolute victory over evil (3:18-22) give you hope and confidence even during severe persecution?

Connect to the WORD:

- Pastor Gordon shared five questions for self-examination out of 1 Peter 4:1-6. Discuss each of these and how they relate to your sanctification.
 1. **Have you armed yourself with the mindset of Christ (v. 1)?** What was the mindset of Christ? Cf. 1 Pt 3:18; Phil 2:5-11. What does "arm" imply? What must you do to arm yourself with that same mindset?
 2. **Are you striving for holiness, breaking free from sin (v. 1b)?** Does your lifestyle reveal that you have made a significant break with sin? How would suffering for righteousness' sake reveal your priorities?
 3. **What are you living for: the passions of the flesh or the will of God (v. 2)?** What does it look like to live for human passions? What does it look like to live for the will of God? What made the change in your desires?
 4. **Are you prepared to be maligned, misunderstood, and ridiculed for your faith (vv. 3-5)?** Why would simply no longer running with the world (even without a word) cause them to revile you? Has this happened to you?
 5. **How does trusting in the good news of the gospel give you hope on the day of judgement (v. 6)?** What will all those who persecute you one day have to do? How does this encourage you?
- What does Peter mean that the gospel was preached "even to those who are dead?" What does it mean to be "judged in the flesh the way people are, that you might live in the spirit the way God does?"

CONNECT to Walk It Out:

As we suffer in the flesh for righteousness's sake, we show that we have made a clear break from sin, and we no longer live for the passions of our flesh, but rather for the will of God and His glory. How will you live differently this week in light of this truth?

Meditate on these verses this week:

1 Peter 4:1-6