



## Session 8

### 4:1-11

#### Study Guide

#### 4:1-2

1) “Therefore” is a reminder that 4:1 actually follows from 3:18. Verses 3:19-22 were a bit of an exegetical excursion although, as we’ll see below, there is something of a connection between 3:19 and 4:6. In any case, there are two questions about 4:1-2 to consider in discerning what Peter is saying. First, what do you think Peter means by “Christ suffered in the flesh” [NRSV]? And, second, what do you think he means by “he who has suffered in his body is *done with sin*” [NIV, emphasis mine]?

#### 4:3-4

2) Here Peter yet again reminds the recipients of the letter that they are not just Jesus-followers but Jesus-followers living as exiles. There’s a definite sense of “then” and “now,” as in a time when they weren’t Jesus-followers contrasted with the present time when they are. This was a typical way within the early church of thinking about life in general, divided between life pre-Jesus and life post-Jesus. It’s helpful to remember that unlike you and me, the recipients of 1 Peter knew the world as it was before Jesus’ earthly ministry.

3) Look at verse 4 carefully. On the one hand, it seems to return to the by-now familiar issue of non-Jesus-followers slandering Jesus-followers. But there’s also the hint of something different this time. Any idea what it might be?

#### 4:5-6

4) What does it mean that God judges not only the living but also the dead?

5) As noted above, verse 6 seems to say something similar to what was said in verse 3:19. But there’s also something fundamentally different between what is being said in each of the two verses—can you discern what it is?

#### **4:7**

6) “*The end of all things is near.*” This statement represents the assumption common among many in the early church that Jesus’ return was imminent. It can be difficult for you and I, with 2000 years of human history since Jesus’ resurrection, to remember that the earliest Jesus-followers had every reason to expect that the time between Jesus’ ascension and the Second Coming was going to be very short indeed.

7) What connection is there between “Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled” and “so that you can pray” [NIV]?

#### **4:8**

8) There are two things in particular to note in this verse. First is the admonition to, above all, love each other deeply which resonates with, among other passages, 1 Corinthians 13. Remember what we’ve said before: Jesus-followers are called to live in Kingdom community with love for all God’s people. Second is the curious comment that love “covers over a multitude of sins” [NIV]. What do you think Peter means by that?

#### **4:9-11**

9) Several things are being said in these verses:

a) elevating love above all (see verse 8) manifests itself in part as hospitality to all

b) as an expression of love, each Jesus-follower should use the gifts he/she has been given for betterment of the Kingdom:

--we are gifted, with the intent we use our gifts for the Kingdom

--we are stewards of the gifts we’ve received, and faithful stewardship means using them for the Kingdom

--we are to serve others, which means we’re to use our gifts not for ourselves but for the benefit of others

10) If we say verse 11 functions as a *doxology* what does that mean?