

A Study of 1 Peter: A Call to Hope and Holiness

What Did You Expect? | 1 Peter 4 | 5.26.19

How is a follower of Christ to respond to those who live for self?

1. Embrace culture's view of love and accept everyone's lifestyle.
2. Be mean-spirited and call down God's judgment on the pagans.
3. Be gracious but express God's plan for how we are to honor Him with our lives.

"God revealed the best and only plan for sexual fulfillment involves the unique and special relationship between a husband and wife."

One day Jesus Christ will clarify to every one of us who was right and who was wrong. There will be surprises and there will be consequences.

We have two paths before us – "self-serving desires" verses the "will of God."

1 Peter 4:1-6 *Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, ² that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. ³ For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. ⁴ In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, (excess) speaking evil of you. ⁵ They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. * ⁶ For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.*

- Verse 6 has been interpreted as referring to: (a) those who are spiritually "dead in sin," (b) those who heard and believed the gospel but have since died, (c) those who died without hearing or believing the gospel. View "a" seems the most reasonable; view "c" is a hope that people get a 2nd chance for salvation but Scripture doesn't support that.

Peter's message is clear; we are engaged in a fierce battle on foreign soil!

Sin is not our friend...

(1) It dishonors God. (2) It damages and destroys our most important relationships. (3) Sin's DNA is a *seek and deceive mission*.

Peter knew we could base our life choices on divine revelation or human reasoning.

God has something to say to us about "how we do life on this side of Heaven." God will have something to say to us about "how we did life on this side of Heaven."

There are those we run with that make it easy for us to do right and there are those we hang around with that make it easy to do wrong. What are you going to do about that?

1 Peter 4:7-11 *But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. ⁸ And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins." ⁹ Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

What did you expect when you placed your faith in Jesus Christ?

1 Peter 4:12 *Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;*

American Christianity has a real struggle embracing the concept that God allows his kids to suffer, nonetheless to say that He actually calls us to this.

V12: Unnatural response # 1 – Don't be surprised when you suffer.

V13-14 Unnatural response #2 – Rejoice when you suffer on behalf of Christ.

1 Peter 4:13-19 *but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. ¹⁴ If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. ¹⁶ Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter. For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ Now "If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?" ¹⁹ Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.*

Summer ABE's @ Grace | Adult Bible Electives

9:30am in Chapel (unless stated otherwise)

- 6.02.19 Phil and Teens: Belgium Mission Trip Prayer Team Recruitment
- 6.09.19 HEARTSONG from Cedarville in Concert (Worship Center)
- 6.16.19 Aaron Boon – Tanzania
- 6.23.19 Steve Kuenkel – Prison Ministry
- 6.30.19 Pete Combs – Grace Counseling Ministry
- 7.07.19 Clayton Womack – Zimbabwe
- 7.14.19 Steve James – Cuba
- 7.21.19 Carl Kerby – Reasons for Hope Apologetic Ministry (Worship Center)
- 7.28.19 Andrew Caudill – ABWE
- 8.04.19 Dwayne Wright – Ethiopia
- 8.11.19 Phil and Teens – Report and Testimonies from Belgium Mission Trip
- 8.18.19 Bob Johnessee – Friends of Israel Ministry
- 8.25.19 Jeff Heslop – Overview of Summer ABE's @ Grace