

Stewards of Grace

Proclamation Life Groups; 1 Peter 4:1-11; Week of Sunday, May 27, 2018; Steve Thiel

Sermon Theme: The reality of the resurrection and the return of Christ are motivations for us to live differently from the world, especially in the midst of suffering. Instead of responding like the world, we are to be a people who joyfully love and serve one another for the glory of God.

I. Stop Sinning – Read 1 Peter 4:1-6 and answer the following questions.

- A. What sort of opposition were these Christians facing according to these verses (4:3-4)? Why do you think the pressure to join in and participate was so strong?
- B. How is the example of Jesus a model for us in these circumstances (4:1-2)?
- C. If those who are “*judged according to men*” (e.g. in a court or tribunal) are Christians who have died, what assurance is given to Christians who are still living (4:6)?
- D. What do you think it means to “*arm yourselves with the same way of thinking*” as Christ (4:1)?
- E. In what ways does an eternal perspective enable us to deal with these present sufferings?
- F. How might we encourage one another to turn from temptation and live for the glory of God?

II. Start Serving – Read 1 Peter 4:7-11 and answer the following questions.

- A. How should our understanding of the gospel and “*the end of all things*” affect our prayers?
- B. How might Christians in this context have sinned (3:13-4:6)? How could the church love them and encourage them so that Peter could say “*love covers a multitude of sins*” (4:8)?
- C. Why might Peter see the need to encourage these believers to exercise hospitality without grumbling (4:9)? What is the purpose of God giving us gifts in the church (4:10-11)?
- D. How might we identify gifts in our own lives and in others in order to best serve the body?
- E. What is the outcome of using our gifts in the family of God (4:11)?
- F. How does this passage challenge your commitment to love, serve, sacrifice, show hospitality and participate in the life of the church? What are some practical steps to grow in this area?