

CROSSWINDS
HOPE IN HARD TIMES
 1 PETER 4:1-6

How are Christians seduced into conforming to the unholiness of modern culture?

Share a time when you paid a price for honoring Jesus?

BRINGING THE BIBLE TO LIFE

> Read 1 Peter 4:1-2.

How does Christ's suffering encourage me when I face suffering?

How was Christ's suffering like our suffering? How was his suffering different?

Why is suffering for a Christ-honoring lifestyle an essential experience in the Christian life?

> Read 1 Peter 4:3.

What is wrong both biblically and practically when we think a little sin is no big deal?

Read Philippians 4:8. What is the standard I should use when evaluating music, movies, television, the Internet and other forms of entertainment?

Should a Christian watch "R" rated movies?

In what areas of entertainment is the Holy Spirit calling me to repent?



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Pagans of the first century viewed Christians as killjoys who lived gloomy lives devoid of pleasure (Colwell 1939; Frensdorff 1967; Sherwin-White 1974). The pleasures from which Christians of the first century typically abstained were the popular forms of Roman entertainment: the theater with its risqué performances, the chariot races, and the gladiatorial fights with their blood and gore. Christian lifestyle also condemned the "pleasures" of an indulgent temper, sex outside marriage, drinking, slander, lying, covetousness, and theft (Colwell 1939: 61). These attitudes toward contemporary Roman customs and morals, combined with the Christians' refusal to burn incense to the emperor—a gesture of civic gratitude intended to assure the well-being of the empire—earned Christians the reputation of being haters of humanity and traitors to the Roman way of life. — Karen Jobes in *Baker Exegetical Commentary on 1 Peter*

After reading the above quote, how does the way I live in my community compare to the way early Christians lived in their community?

> Read 1 Peter 4:5; Colossians 3:25; 1 Peter 1:17

How does the reality both Christian and non-Christian having judgement by God change the way I handle my anger? My time? My money? My relationships with the opposite sex? My thought life?

> Read 1 Peter 4:6; Psalm 16:11

Why would death be better than sin?

NEXT STEPS

What is one area of life, where I am conforming to sinful patterns of the world, that I want my Life Group to hold me accountable for a change?



CONNECTION QUESTION

When we are being oppressed by evil forces in this life, why is it important to know that Jesus sits at the right hand of the Father in victory? How does this help us to remain faithful in our everyday lives?