

Standing in the True Grace of God

Peter's Life, Letters and Lord

1 Peter 4:1–11

Read 1 Peter 4:1–11. Reread 1 Peter 4:1–3.

1. Why does Peter exhort his readers to adopt Christ's attitude toward suffering? (v. 1; 2:20–23; 3:14a, 17)

2. What changes does understanding Christ's suffering bring about in the believer's life? (vv. 1–2; 1:17–19; 2:24; Phil. 3:10–12)

3. The end of verse 1 says, "he who has suffered in his body is done with sin." This statement refers to the spiritual state of a believer who has chosen to experience suffering rather than sin. As a result, the believer has decisively broken with a life dominated by sin. This doesn't mean that he is no longer sinful or never sins (1 Jn. 1:8–10), but that his old life, ruled by the power of sin, has ended.
 - a. What characterized Peter's readers before they made a break with their sinful lifestyle? (vv. 2, 3; 1:14, 18)


 - b. What does being "done with sin" look like in the believer's post conversion lifestyle? (1:15, 2:1–2, 11–12, 17)

Read 1 Peter 4:4–6.

4. Now that these believers have stopped participating in their previous sinful behaviors, how are their former friends responding?

5. It might appear that the pagans' sinful activities are without consequence, but what is the truth? (v. 5; 2 Cor. 5:10)

Who will be the judge of "the living and the dead" (v. 5)? (Acts 10:37–42;  * 2 Tim. 4:1)

*The  symbol indicates verses for further study.

6. First-century Christians expected Jesus to return within their lifetime. They were concerned that the death of their believing friends meant they would have no part in the glory of Christ's second coming. How does the Bible reassure these Christians that death is not the final word? (v. 6b; 1 Thess. 4:13–18)

Read 1 Peter 4:7–11.

7. Why would the coming “end of all things” (v. 7) be a strong motivation for what Peter calls his readers to do? (2 Cor. 5:8–10; 2 Pet. 3:11–14)
8. In contrast to being ruled by passion, drunkenness and idolatry as they used to be, what should characterize Peter’s readers now? (v. 7)

Why?

9. What is one of the main results of loving others deeply?

What does this look like in practice? (Prov. 17:9; 1 Cor. 13:4–7; Col. 3:12–14)

Describe a time when you have experienced this.

Read 1 Peter 4:8–11.

10. Fill in the chart below to better understand the practical ways Peter calls believers to love one another.

Reference	What we are to do	How we are to do it
v. 9		
v. 11a		
v. 11b		

How would the Lord have you live these things out in the present circumstances of your life?

11. Peter has given a number of motivations for his readers to pursue godliness and love one another, but what motivation outweighs the others? (v. 11b)