

***Living with Purpose:
Embracing Christ's Example***

1 Peter 4:1–11

WHAT IS TRUE, AND WHAT SHOULD CHRISTIANS DO?

Jesus is the judge of all people. He is returning soon. The Gospel brings life through death. Choose to follow Christ's path of suffering in obedience to God instead of living for yourself. This means we as Christians should arm ourselves with the right attitude(s), living as if each day is our last day on earth and selflessly serving others with unity and love for the glory of God.

1. In these last days, believers should arm themselves with the right attitude – that of Christ Jesus (v. 1)

A. An attitude of suffering (v.1)

Note: Suffering does not result in sinless perfection. Only Jesus lived without sin! But to decide to embrace suffering as a follower of Christ is evidence that a person has turned from a life of sin.

B. An attitude of commitment (to obey and glorify God) (v. 2)

C. An attitude of wisdom and holiness (v.3–6)

D. An attitude of serious prayer (v.7)

E. An attitude of love (v.8–11)

2. In these last days, believers should live like today is their last day (v. 7)

A. Jesus is returning soon! The end of all things is near! See also Rm. 13:11-12; Heb. 9:26-28; James 5:8; 1 Jn. 2:18; Rv. 1:3.

3. In these last days, believers should, believers should serve as if they are the least important person on earth (v. 8–11)

A. Believers should maintain unity in all that they do and glorify God in the process.

B. Believers should forgive the faults in others' lives because we have experienced God's gracious forgiveness in our own.

C. Believers should use their abilities and gifts to serve others; each believer has been given a way to serve. Are you? We need God's strength to do God's work. Are you relying on him or yourself?