

4 So then, since Christ suffered physical pain, you must arm yourselves with the same attitude he had, and be ready to suffer, too. For if you have suffered physically for Christ, you have finished with sin. 2 You won't spend the rest of your lives chasing your own desires, but you will be anxious to do the will of God. 3 You have had enough in the past of the evil things that godless people enjoy—their immorality and lust, their feasting and drunkenness and wild parties, and their terrible worship of idols.

4 Of course, your former friends are surprised when you no longer plunge into the flood of wild and destructive things they do. So they slander you. 5 But remember that they will have to face God, who stands ready to judge everyone, both the living and the dead. 6 That is why the Good News was preached to those who are now dead—so although they were destined to die like all people, they now live forever with God in the Spirit.

7 The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore, be earnest and disciplined in your prayers. 8 Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay.

10 God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. 11 Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

— 1 Peter 4:1-11

Discussion/Journal Questions

Have you ever been to a High School reunion? What would the people who knew you then say about the person you have become? How have you changed and grown in Christ since then?

Read 1 Peter 4:1-11. In your own words, summarize what Peter is saying here.

What is the connection between suffering, sin, and service?

In the sermon, John said, "When hardship leads to suffering, we have a choice to make: to sin or to serve." How have you personally faced this choice in the midst of suffering?

Why is the temptation to sin so strong during times of suffering? What lie does the enemy try to feed us to lead us to sin while suffering?

What truth do we need to cling to in order to defeat the lie?

What happens internally when we focus on serving others in the midst of hard times and suffering?

How can your group pray for you this week?

Who are you praying for to accept Jesus, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?

Who are you currently discipling, and what specifically did you do this week to help them know, love, and follow Jesus?

Who are you considering for future discipleship relationships, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?