

Reflecting on 1 Peter 4:1-19
Living as a Counter-Cultural Christian
December 12, 2021

Introduction: In chapter 4 of 1 Peter, Peter challenges us to shift our thinking about life in this world as a follower of Jesus. He conveys three surprising principles:

1. Christians who have died to their sinful passion will not fit in with the world around them. (1-6)
2. Every believer is given a spiritual gift for the good of the body and for the glory of God. (7-11)
3. Christians embrace suffering as an inevitable part of living for God in this world; this suffering leads us to a greater trust in our faithful God. (12-19)

The big idea we discovered was that *God calls followers of Jesus to live in a world they will never belong to, to help a community He gifts them to serve, and to suffer trials as those who have put their trust in a faithful God.*

Discussion Starters

1. What part of the message was most helpful to you as you strive to follow Jesus?
2. If you were saved after the age of 20, how do you relate to the teaching of verse 3? How does the perspective taught in this verse strengthen you against temptation to displease the Lord?
3. Verses 4-5 describe a scenario where former friends from the world come to malign followers of Jesus. How does the maligning in verse 4 compare with the events of verse 5? How does this change our perspective on life in this world?

4. Verse 8 assumes that a fair amount of sin will take place within the community of faith. What is presented as the solution to this troubling realization? What does this look like at Calvary Baptist Church in 2021?

5. Why has God gifted every Christian with a spiritual gift? What should be the outcome of this gracious bestowal?

6. Verse 10 presents two categories of spiritual gifts, speaking and serving. Read over the three passages in the New Testament and get a feel for these spiritual gifts (Romans 12:6–8; 1 Corinthians 12:4–11, 28; and Ephesians 4:11-12). Make a list of the gifts presented in the New Testament. (Keep in mind that none of the lists are exhaustive, only representative)

7. As best as you can tell, what is your spiritual gift? How do you think God wants you to exercise that gift in the local body?

8. What is one thing that you can do to put what you heard this week into practice? How can the people in your group help you do this?