

Scripture – 1 Peter 4:1-11 (ESV)

¹ Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, ² so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. ³ For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. ⁴ With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; ⁵ but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶ For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does.

⁷ The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. ⁸ Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Summary:

Since Christ has suffered for us and redeemed us through His death and resurrection, we are called to live for Him. This is more than merely making external changes; it is a complete surrender to God and His will. Peter urges the believers to lay aside their past way of living in sin and to put on the holiness of Christ through His strength. In verse 11, Peter instructs the believers to speak and serve in the strength God provides because he knows that it is only through the power of God that we are transformed into His image. Sanctification is the process of God working in the lives of those who believe in Him to put to death sin and to grow righteousness.

START (the group): Follow up with your group regarding their applications from last week. Ask them how they did in applying last week's text.

STUDY (the passage):

Read: 1 Peter 4:1-11

1. What sticks out to you from the passage?
2. What do you have a question about?
3. What does it mean "to live... for the will of God" (verse 2)? How does this differ from merely making better decisions (external changes)?
4. Why do you think that Peter instructed the believers to put on love and hospitality above all? How does love impact our daily lives?
5. In verse 11, Peter speaks of speaking and serving in and through God's strength. How is this different from relying on our own power, both in the action and in the result?

Apply:

6. How has the Gospel changed your life personally?
7. What is one thing God is asking you to do in response to this passage?