

STANDING FIRM: Gospel Reorientation

Andy Deane · 6/30/2024 · 1 Peter 4:1-11

Our sinful world provides an orientation on how we should live: selfishly for our own gain. Today, Peter is going to show us seven gospel principles that reorients us for kingdom living:

#1 WE EMBRACE CHRIST'S ATTITUDE ABOUT SUFFERING

1 Peter 4:1-2, *1 Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin. 2 As a result, they do not live the rest of their earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God.*

- Like Jesus, we must be willing to suffer as we follow God, putting away sin as we pursue spiritual life with Him.
- *arm yourselves also with the same attitude:*
 - Matthew 16:24, *Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.*
 - Matthew 5:29, *If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away...*
- While such suffering do not lead to a ceasing from all sin, godly priorities establish a wholesome pattern of life.

#2 WE CHANGE OUR LIFESTYLE FROM GODLESS TO GODLINESS

1 Peter 4:3, *3 For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry.*

- Christ followers should desire to move on from a sinful lifestyle by finding more joy in the Lord.
- Sadly, some want to experience more of the sinful world before they make a full commitment to God.

#3 WE DISTANCE OURSELVES FROM SINFUL TEMPTATIONS

1 Peter 4:4, *4 They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, & they heap abuse on you.*

- We can't avoid being around unbelievers, and we shouldn't want to, but we do need to avoid sinful situations.
- Distance yourself in practice, not in place. Your influence will either cause them to be "curious or furious".

#4 WE HAVE ETERNAL PERSPECTIVES ABOUT PERSECUTION

1 Peter 4:5-6, *5 But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. 6 For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to human standards in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit.*

- When people treat us wrongfully because of our pursuit of Jesus, we can trust God will take care of it eventually:
 - He may deal with it in this life (*ready to judge the living*)
 - He may deal with it in the after life (*ready to judge...the dead*)
- Despite physical death, believers find life in Christ Jesus. Gospel power in our lives does not end at death!

#5 WE MAKE ROOM IN OUR BUSY DAYS FOR PRAYER

1 Peter 4:7, *7 The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray.*

- Do you believe Jesus is coming back soon? Then apply that belief in the proper way: less news & more prayer!
- *be alert*: of culture, trends, evil, so that you are driven to prayer for those things.
- *sober-mind*: consider your life and actions seriously!

#6 WE RESPOND TO OFFENSES WITH A LOVE THAT FORGIVES

1 Peter 4:9, *8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.*

- Often when we are offended we either confront or avoid that person, but there's another option: mercy!
- We can extend mercy consistently & secretly (by forgiving people before you even have to confront them).
- We can extend mercy so we receive mercy: Matthew 5:7, *Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*

#7 WE USE OUR GIFTS TO BUILD GOD'S KINGDOM

1 Peter 4:9-11, *9 Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 11 If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.*

- We we resisting sin, there is a void that needs to be filled. Fill it with righteous living:
 - Galatians 5:16-17, *So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.*
 - 2 Timothy 2:22, *Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.*
- God has given each of His children spiritual gifts and practical gifts (talents, money, resources):
 - Use your spiritual gifts: Discover yours by taking a Spiritual Gifts Test —Text GIFTS to (951)425-4425.
 - Use your physical gifts: like hospitality (*without grumbling*)
- John 7:38, *...rivers of living water will flow from within them.*
- We have opportunities in C-KiDS jr., C-KiDS, Cornerstone Youth & VBS —Text SERVE to (951)425-4425.