

I. How to cease sinning: suffer for doing what is right.

- A. “The one who suffers in the flesh [for doing what is right] has ceased from sin.” *You can only avoid doing what is wrong by doing what is right.*
- B. Genuinely doing what is right will cost us something.
 - i. Negative: dealing with the condemnation and persecution of those who oppose you for doing what is right.
 - ii. Positive: it takes self-sacrificial work to do what is right.
 - a) Financial sacrifice (by the way, good work!)
 - b) Time and energy: you'll get tired; you'll feel the pressure of time commitments.
 - c) “Bear one another's burdens” (Galatians 6:2)
- C. This will be a lifelong battle, but we can see genuine victory over sin if we remember that we have a different guide for how to live and a different community in which to live.

II. Different guide

- A. We can't be guided by the expectations of everyone around us (the *epithumia* of men).
- B. Instead, the will of God.
- C. If you belong to Jesus, you can't just tone down the world's standards. You have a different guide for life, which makes all the difference in the world.

III. Different company

- A. Do you know who your people are?
 - i. Paul's prayer for the church in Ephesus (Ephesians 2:22; 3:14,18)
 - ii. Peter's perspectives (1 Peter 1:10-12; 4:6)
 - iii. The book of Hebrews on those who have gone before (Hebrews 12:1,22-23)
- B. How different from our earthly ancestors: many of them will give you a hard time and become angry or disrespectful toward God, but others will be attracted to God through you.

IV. Same judge

- A. Mankind says to God all the time, “Leave me alone.” When God says, “Okay, here you go,” we call that Hell.
- B. People around you will be judged for the way they treat Christ through you.
- C. This can be comforting ... or scary!
- D. If you are angry and hurt at people who scorn you for wanting to know God ...
- E. If you are filled with grief for the sake of people who scorn you ...
- F. Jesus said, “I am the way and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6)
 - i. Ultimately the reason to suffer for doing what is right is that Jesus did it.
 - ii. He did all this so that you could have hope and peace with God.