
Our Christian Identity: 1 Peter

[#10] The Cross Shaped Life – 1 Peter 4:1-11

Sermon Outline – August 7, 2016

Children's Sermon: Mirrors of What?

- ❖ In who's image were we made?
- ❖ An Idol is false way to picture God.
- ❖ When we make a false picture of God, what will happen to us?

Psalm 135:18

¹⁸ And those who make idols *become just like them*, as do all who trust in them.

Today's Biblical Bullet...
We resemble what we revere.¹

Notes:

Eyes that See, Ears that Hear...or Not

The Fleshly/Human Passions Orientation (No Place for Suffering)

Revelation 11:10

¹⁰ and *those who dwell on the earth* will rejoice over them and make merry and exchange presents, because these **two prophets** had been a torment to *those who dwell on the earth*.

1. Values the Goods of this Life (the flesh)
2. Is Committed to Self-Interest
3. We Trust Ourselves to Look Out for Our Self

¹ I am indebted to **Dr. Greg Beale** for this phrase.

Two Styles of Fleshly Orientation

1. Rebellion
2. Hypocritical Obedience
 - ✓ How do you see the rebels? (sneering/envious)
 - ✓ How do your successes/failures make you feel?

Peter's Gospel Orientation

(Review: Central Role of Suffering)

1 Peter 3:14–15, 18

¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, *you will be blessed*. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts **honor Christ the Lord as holy**, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with *gentleness and respect*...

¹⁸ *For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God,* being put to death in the flesh but made alive [by] *the Spirit*... (Love God & Neighbor)

Arm Ourselves with Jesus' Way of Thinking

¹ *Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, **arm** yourselves with the same way of thinking...*

How can we arm ourselves with a way of thinking?

- ✓ Preach...to one another
- ✓ Pray...for one another
- ✓ Persevere (Cf. 2 Cor. 10:5 "every thought captive")

...Fired at our Life & Heart

Understanding Jesus suffering "in the flesh" changes the way we think about how and why we spend our time/life.

Changes Our Passions

...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.* (Cf. Lk. 22:42 – The Garden)³ For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality², passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry.

Changes Our Point of View

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.

Part of our job is cultivating a culture where truth looks normal and rebellion looks crazy.

Changes Our Prayers

⁷ *The end/goal of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled* (NASB – “be of sound judgment”) and *sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.*

Have we asked God to help us be gospel people?

Changes Our Tone

⁸ Above all, *keep loving one another earnestly* (fervently), since *love covers a multitude of sins.*⁹ *Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.*

² “behavior completely lacking in moral restraint, usually with the implication of sexual licentiousness.” Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). *Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains* (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 770). New York: United Bible Societies.

Why do we grumble?

Changes Our Self Perception/Purpose

(Cross Shaped Life)

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.

The Gospel Orientation

1. We Value Eternity with God/Jesus (**the flesh must die**)
2. We are Committed to God's Will/Glory
3. We Trust God to Bring His Promised Blessings

The Gospel Frees Us from the Fleshly Orientation

1. Freed from Rebellion: **Sin's penalty, guilt & power**
2. Freed from Hypocritical Obedience
 - ✓ How do you see the rebels?
(**Just like me... in need of grace!**)
 - ✓ How do your successes/failures make you feel?
(**Thankful!**)

Preach, Pray & Persevere!