

Armed to Cease from Sin
Sermon Based Discussion (May 8, 2016)
Living Out Faith (1 Peter, part 3), Message 1

WARM UP

1. Share about a recent time when someone made a sacrifice to help you. What was it, and how did you feel about it?

Hopefully we live in a society where people are willing to sacrifice for the sake of others and the common good. This may sound idealist, but it's supposed to be a normal part of living as a Christian. And while it should be normal, it can still be hard to sacrifice or suffer for honoring God.

In this session, we consider how the biblical writer, Peter the apostle, urges Christ-followers to be "armed" and read to suffer. We'll consider what difference that attitude can make in our spiritual lives.

INTO THE BIBLE (Read 1 Peter 4:1-6)

2. Based upon this passage, what do we learn about Peter's attitude towards suffering for the sake of Christ?
3. Consider the list of sins that Peter describes as a regular part of ancient Greco-Roman culture. Compared to our modern culture, how much has changed and how much has remained the same?
4. What does Peter mean by "ceasing from sin"?

UNDERSTANDING

5. Think about the Bible's commands about sex, substance, money, and power (those issues related to the list of sins in v.3). What types of behaviors does the Bible call Christians to, which might seem strange or surprising to our culture?
6. Why might non-Christians be surprised or critical when Christians attempt to live out the Bible's teaching on these areas of sex, substance, faith, and power?

DIFFERENCE

7. On a scale of 1 to 10 (1=lowest, 10=highest), how often do you think about cultivate a readiness to suffer? How often do you think about cultivating comfort and convenience?
8. Share about a time when you faced a situation or choice in which doing the Christ-like thing may have made others surprised or critical of you.

APPLICATION

9. What are some concrete actions a Christian can take to practically "arm" herself with an attitude of being ready & willing to suffer?
10. How can you apply this passage to a situation in your life this coming week?