**Armed with the Mind of Christ**

*1 Peter 4:1-6*

1. The Mind of Christ in 1 Peter 4:1
2. Christ suffered in the flesh.
   * Arm with the same *mind (thought, or intent*).
   * *What was Christ’s intent?*
     + Doing good even to the point of suffering – 2:18-24
       - *“because of conscience toward God”* – having a consciousness of God’s will, and the desire to uphold it no matter the consequences.
       - *“committed Himself to Him who judges righteously”* – He delivered Himself completely to God, rather than seeking His own justification. Even to the point of denying Himself relief. He could do this because God judges righteously.
     + Suffering for righteousness sake – 3:13-18
       - Rather than being afraid of those opposed, we should continue to reverence God – v. 15 – We must always keep perspective even through sufferings.
       - If it’s God’s will, it’s better to suffer for good than evil – This is what Christ did, and it was God’s will (v. 18).
3. Arm yourselves with the same *mind (thought, or intent*).
   * The intent, or purpose, that Christ had and we should as well, is to live for the will of God.
     + The degree to which we hold that purpose is expressed in this passage.
   * The one who has suffered (v. 1b) in this passage is the one who has decided to live for God’s will.
     + The decision came before suffering, but the suffering was caused by the decision.
       - *“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution” (2 Timothy 3:12)*
     + However, the decision is made with the expectation, or knowledge, of the suffering following.
       - *Ceased* from sin – Thayer says, *“has got release from sin, i.e. is no longer stirred by its incitements and seductions.”*
       - The decision to do God’s will, even with the understanding that you will suffer for doing so, takes an immense amount of conviction. To have that conviction is to have a desire to serve God that overwhelms the desire to sin.
4. The will of the Gentiles in 1 Peter 4:3-6.
5. These are things Gentiles desire to do (v. 3)
   * *“enough of our past lifetime…when we walked”* – It is important to note the past tense in this verse. The time already spent is sufficient! There is no need for more. (cf. Colossians 3:6-7)
     + These things were done before we became Christians. A Christian does not act in these ways (cf. 1 John 2:28-29; 3:4-9 – A child of God has his sins taken away so he can abide in Christ. If we are His we have *“ceased from sin.”*)
   * These six sins (like all sins) fall under the general concept of living for the lusts of men rather than for the will of God.
     + Lewdness – licentiousness, sensuality, unbridled lust.
       - Fulfilling any sexual desires with a disregard for God’s will.
     + Lusts – giving in to any sinful desire
     + Drunkenness – excess of wine, intoxicated.
     + Revelries – carousing, boisterous noise making conduct that is uninhibited due to strong drink.
     + Drinking parties – a drinking bout; like a cocktail party; does not necessarily involve excess.
     + Abominable idolatries – unlawful actions in connection with idolatry. (covetousness is idolatry – Colossians 3:5)
6. They will speak evil of you. (v. 4)
   * Individuals that are still involved in sin will be surprised of the change in your life. Because of this they will say things about you that aren’t true in effort to hurt your reputation.
7. They will answer to God. (v. 5)
   * This should cause us to continue to live righteously. God will *“render to each one according to his deeds” (Romans 2:6)*.
8. This is why the gospel is preached. So that men can live for God and not men even in the midst of suffering persecution. (v. 6).
9. The suffering is only in the flesh. (Compare with Christ’s suffering and then glorification.)

* We should be able to endure suffering because we know it’s only temporary.
  + 1 Peter 3:14-15 – *“for the hope that is in you”*
    - The reason we can endure suffering is because we have hope. This sustains us.
  + 1:3-9
    - We have a hope of an eternal inheritance. When we are tested by trials we can still be joyous because of the hope we have of the salvation of our souls.
  + When we desire to live for God we will suffer. But the end of suffering for God is far better than the end for living for the lusts of men.
    - James 1:2-3, 12 – Patience translates into overcoming temptation which translates into receiving the crown of life.
    - Revelation 2:8-11 – *“but you are rich”* – Their inheritance outweighs their physical poverty. – Crown of life.