

SET APART

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS | WEEK 9

QUESTION 1

Take a moment to read our scripture for the week aloud and then discuss what stands out to you personally from the scripture. **1 Peter 4:1-6 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. 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. ⁴ They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you. 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.**

QUESTION 2

Question two will focus on verses one and two: **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.** This first verse calls us to have the same attitude as Jesus. Paul in Philippians gives the same command. **Philippians 2:5 (NLT) You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.** Both **1 Peter 4:1** and **Philippians 2:5** imply that we can choose our attitude, and that our attitude or mindset can make all the difference. Do you believe people can choose their attitude or mindset? If so, how does one choose to have the same attitude as Jesus?

These first two verses present the idea that, by being willing to suffer as Jesus did, we can break the power of sin and live for God's will instead of our unhealthy and sinful desires. Share with your group what that looks like for you in this season of your life. Please add what you think would be the benefit of living the rest of your earthly life doing God's will instead of fulfilling your unhealthy or sinful desires.

QUESTION 3

Question three will focus on verses three and four. **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. ⁴ They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you.** These verses tell us something about what Peter's original audience was facing, and they are also very relevant for us today. The people who received Peter's letter had left a pagan lifestyle and were choosing to live for God. Their neighbors and former friends were shocked and appalled, heaping abuse on them. Has this ever happened to you? If so, tell the story of a time when people looked down on you because you did not join them in their reckless behavior.

At the heart of this verse is the idea that those who follow Jesus have already spent enough time doing things that displease God, serving only selfish motives and leaving them feeling empty. Let's personalize this. What are some things you have done, and perhaps are still tempted to do, that only serve your selfish motives and leave you feeling empty? Have you spent enough time doing these things? Please be specific and transparent.

QUESTION 4

Question four will focus on verse five. **But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.** In this verse, Peter reminds us that those who mock Christians today will one day stand before Jesus as the judge. In fact, all of us will stand before Jesus to give an account of our lives. **2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.** If you have accepted Jesus, you need not fear eternal punishment, but you'll still be called to give an account of how you have chosen to live. Process this idea as a group. What do you think about standing before Jesus? Does this motivate you to live a life that pleases Him? Does the thought of everyone standing before Jesus motivate you to share your faith?

QUESTION 5

Our last question will deal with the last verse in this section. **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.** This fascinating verse has been interpreted in different ways at different times, but the heart of the verse calls us to two important things, sharing our faith and having an eternal mindset. After reminding his readers that all people will stand before the judgment seat of Christ, Peter says: **For this is the reason the gospel was preached,** which reminds us of the priority of sharing Jesus with others. Do you feel that priority? In what ways are you engaged in impacting others for Christ?