



# Being Different For the Cause of Christ

1 Peter 4:1-6

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pew Bible Page Number is 1115-1116.

In the STUDY VERSE SECTION, God's Word is printed in regular faced text with Pastor Joe's commentary in the smaller faced text.

Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. • Pastor Joe's email: Joe@southreno.com

**1 Peter 4:1-6, The Living Bible** -<sup>1</sup> *Since Christ suffered and underwent pain, you must have the same attitude he did; you must be ready to suffer, too. For remember, when your body suffers, sin loses its power,*<sup>2</sup> *and you won't be spending the rest of your life chasing after evil desires but will be anxious to do the will of God.*<sup>3</sup> *You have had enough in the past of the evil things the godless enjoy—sex sin, lust, getting drunk, wild parties, drinking bouts, and the worship of idols, and other terrible sins.*<sup>4</sup> *Of course, your former friends will be very surprised when you don't eagerly join them anymore in the wicked things they do, and they will laugh at you in contempt and scorn.*<sup>5</sup> *But just remember that they must face the Judge of all, living and dead; they will be punished for the way they have lived.*<sup>6</sup> *That is why the Good News was preached even to those who were dead—killed by the flood—so that although their bodies were punished with death, they could still live in their spirits as God lives.*

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## Being Different for Christ

### 1. Become a person of resolve.

**STUDY VERSE SECTION - 1 Peter 4:1, NASB95** -<sup>1</sup> *Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm* [a military term that refers to a soldier taking up weapons in preparation for battle; but Peter uses a root word, *hoplon* meaning “spiritual weapon of light”; it typically denotes “surrender”] *yourself also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin...*

### 2. Live for the will of God.

**STUDY VERSE SECTION - 1 Peter 4:2, NASB95** -<sup>2</sup> *so as to live* [used here in the NT; it doesn't mean “alive” but “full of life”] *the rest of the time in the flesh [on earth] no longer for the lusts* [lit., sinfully passionate longing] *of men, but for the will of God.*

### 3. Leave human passions behind.

**STUDY VERSE SECTION - 1 Peter 4:3, NASB95** -<sup>3</sup> *For the time already past* [lit., the having passed away time” i.e., we've already had enough time for sin] *is sufficient for you to have carried out* [lit., to have fallen in (or committed)] *the desire of the Gentiles* [not the race but those without God], *having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries* [translate two Gk. words, one meaning “to overflow” and the other means “that state in which a person's mind is so corrupt that he/she thinks about nothing but evil and how to delight in it”; sin literally becomes a god to them].

### 4. Count the cost.

**STUDY VERSE SECTION - 1 Peter 4:4, NASB95** -<sup>4</sup> *In all this, they are surprised* [i.e., alarmed] *that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign* [lit., blaspheme, meaning to curse] *you;*

### 5. Prepare to give an account.

**STUDY VERSE SECTION - 1 Peter 4:5, NASB95** -<sup>5</sup> *but they* [those who are alarmed by God's people and who malign God's people] *will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.*

### 6. Keep the future in focus.

**STUDY VERSE SECTION - 1 Peter 4:6, NASB95** -<sup>6</sup> *For the gospel* [lit., the good news of what Christ has done] *has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead* [in the flood], *that though they are judged in the flesh as men, they may live in the spirit according to the will of God.*

Peter's point is clear (in this passage). Christ has not sent us into the world as vacationers on a self-guided tour of a playground, but as soldiers on a tour of duty in a battlefield. We are not called to kick back, relax, take in the scenery, retire or wait for our Guide to take us home. Rather, we are engaged in a fierce spiritual conflict on foreign soil. We need to arm ourselves with spiritual armor to withstand the temptations of this evil world...so we, like brave soldiers of the faith throughout history, can stand out as an ambassador for the cross of Christ and the kingdom of light in the midst of an empire of darkness.