



We must be armed with the same way of thinking that Jesus armed himself with. For if we fail in our thinking, then we will certainly fail in our living.

This encompasses all of life. There are no spaces or time slots where this does not apply. There's nothing partial or compartmentalized about this.

Holiness may be a forgotten word and a missing category in our culture, but holiness must not be forgotten or missing from any area of our lives. We are to be holy in everything, just as our God and Father is holy in everything (1:14-16). The place we are in or the people we are with makes no difference. Our call to holiness includes all of life for us.

### 1 Peter 4:3

Most or all of these sinful activities are **g**\_\_\_\_\_ activities. These sins are committed in community. They are done with a crowd. Others encourage us to sin and they join in. This participation by and approval from others may ease our conscience and make it feel like it's okay. In fact, it can give the impression that something is wrong with you if you don't. Engaging in sexual **d**\_\_\_\_\_ (stepping outside of God's good and wise design for human sexuality—selfishly turning a good and beautiful gift from God into something dark, ugly, and destructive) and alcoholic **e**\_\_\_\_\_ with others are the focus of this list of examples of how we must no longer live. This list is representative, not exhaustive.

However long you have been living for self, it's been long enough. However long you lived for self and wasted your life, that was enough of that.

**QUESTION:** Does God really expect men to militantly maintain purity in their minds? Does God really call us to be vigilant gatekeepers of our own eyes, ears, and thoughts?

**ANSWER:** He does.

### 1 Peter 4:4

When we stop diving into debauchery with others, there will be a reaction. When we stop locking arms with and drinking along with others, it will get a response. When, as baptized believers in Jesus, we live for God instead of for self, a **c**\_\_\_\_\_ between us and others (who still live for self) is **c**\_\_\_\_\_. That **c**\_\_\_\_\_ can bring **c**\_\_\_\_\_ to those still living for self. It can show them that they are living the wrong way. It can show them the sinfulness of their own sin.

And that contrast and conviction has two common results:

#### **Confession and repentance**

(and possibly conversion for those who are not yet Christians)

**OR**

**S**\_\_\_\_\_ and then **s**\_\_\_\_\_,

resentment and then ridicule, anger and then punishment

**O**\_\_\_\_\_ and **c**\_\_\_\_\_ are likely outcomes when we start living to please God instead of self.

### 1 Peter 4:5-6

Peer, group, and societal pressure are all very powerful forces. It is not easy to stand apart, to be different, to walk a different road. Peer, group, and societal rejection are all painful experiences. It hurts to be hated and mistreated. We

crave acceptance and comfort, and we strongly dislike disapproval and pain.

**QUESTION:** How can we choose suffering over sin under such pressure and when our hearts crave acceptance and so strongly dislike pain and suffering?

**ANSWER:** We look back to Jesus' example of suffering followed by glory, and we look ahead to Jesus' future judgment. All people, including ourselves, will soon stand in His presence and give an account to Him.

To think like Jesus thought and choose suffering over sin, we must preach the truth to ourselves during times of pressure and persecution: "I will outlive this pressure and this persecution. I will outlast this pain. As with Jesus, so with me. Glory, not suffering, is the end of my story."

- Do you truly trust in Jesus Christ? **Yes** or **No**

- Have you identified with Him and declared to others that you have died to sin (that you have made a definite break from sin) by being baptized? **Yes** or **No**

- Do you agree that however much time you lived for self, that that was enough of that? **Yes** or **No**

- Will you choose to have a militant mindset about sin and suffering? Will you think the way Jesus thought? **Yes** or **No**

- Will you choose suffering over sin? **Yes** or **No**

*Just two choices on the shelf, pleasing God or pleasing self.  
Whom will you live to please, God or self?*

## **Enough of That**

1 Peter 4:1-6

*Just two choices on the shelf, pleasing God or pleasing self.*

-Ken Collier

### **1 Peter 4:1-2**

Christ Jesus is our **example**. The command is to **think** like Him. Where the brain goes, the body goes. What the mind thinks, the mouth says. Our thinking and wanting always precedes our choosing. It all starts in the heart. See Proverbs 4:20-27 and Mark 7:14-23.

Jesus never chose sin. He always chose to suffer rather than sin. He got on the Calvary road, and he never stopped or strayed from it. We, as His blood-bought and baptized people, are called to walk down that same road of suffering as we spend the rest of our days doing the will of God.

Peter seems to be making the same or a similar point in 1 Peter 3:18-4:6 that Paul is making in Romans 6:1-11. That is, our Christian water baptism, as believers in the crucified, buried, and risen Lord Jesus, is our **d**\_\_\_\_\_ that we have died to sin. That is, we who now trust in and identify with Jesus have made a **d**\_\_\_\_\_ break from sin in our lives. We are now committed to living for God as we keep trusting in Jesus. We will live for His glory by His grace.

And if that is going to happen in our lives (if we are going to actually live for God instead of for self), then we must have a **m**\_\_\_\_\_ **m**\_\_\_\_\_ about **s**\_\_\_\_\_ and **s**\_\_\_\_\_.