**1 Peter: Arm Yourselves as Christ Armed Himself, Pt 2**

1 Peter 4:2-5

**Context**

**1 Peter 4:1-6**—*Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,****2****so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.****3****For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries.****4****In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign you;****5****but they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.****6****For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead, that though they are judged in the flesh as men, they may live in the spirit according to the will of God.*

Peter encourages these struggling, persecuted believers with a reminder that we are to live our lives not in the flesh, but for the will of God. John Owen once said, “sin in the believer is a burden which afflicts him rather than a pleasure which delights him.” His statement recognizes that even after being born from above when we were regenerated, we will continue to struggle with sin and temptation.

Believers have been given a new nature in Christ, which desires to live in righteousness and obedience to God. But the conflict between the flesh and the spirit is real and it continues while we are in this earthly tent.

Any ability we have to be victorious over the old self is only accomplished through Christ's victory over sin. Through Christ's death and resurrection, believers are freed from the bondage and dominion of sin, although we still struggle with it.

We are to arm ourselves as our Savior armed Himself with the same purpose.

**HOW TO HAVE THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE IN PERSECUTION**

1. **Have the Same Attitude as Christ**

***1****Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin*

1. **Have God’s Will in Mind**

***2****so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God*

1. The will of God
   * + 1. Obedience and submission to His good pleasure
       2. It is not only our actions but our thoughts and desires
       3. In contrast, to stand opposed to the will of God is an act of disobedience
          1. It is rebellion against Him

**Psalm 51:4**—*Against You, You only, I have sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And pure when You judge*

**Matthew 7:24-27**—“*Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and does them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock.****25****And the rain descended, and the rivers came, and the winds blew and fell against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock.****26****And everyone hearing these words of Mine and not doing them, may be compared to a foolish man who built his house on the sand.****27****And the rain descended, and the rivers came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall.”*

* + - * 1. It is usurping God’s authority

It functionally puts you in a higher position

It’s not believe nor trusting in His character or nature

It is not believing in His authority and sovereignty

It relegates God to the back seat by pushing Him aside and saying you’ll take charge of your life

“I will do what I want”

* + - 1. There is a consequence that comes to those who disobey His will

**Matthew 25:41-46**—*“Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;****42****for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink;****43****I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.’****44****Then they themselves also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?’****45****Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’* ***46****And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”*

**Jude15***—to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.*

**Matthew 7:21***—“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.”*

* + - 1. We are not to conform to this world to be transformed

**Romans 12:1-2**—*Therefore I exhort you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice—living, holy, and pleasing to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.****2****And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may approve what the will of God is, that which is good and pleasing and perfect.*

**Ephesians 6:5-6***—Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the integrity of your heart, as to Christ;****6****not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart*

**Colossians 4:12**—Epaphras, who is one of your number, a slave of Christ Jesus, sends you his greetings, always striving for you in his prayers, that you may stand complete and fully *assured in all the will of God.*

1. We live for God’s purposes and not our own
   1. We live our earthly lives in pursuit of holiness
   2. Knowing that it comes at a physical cost
   3. He calls our strong desires “lusts”…*no longer for the lusts of men*
      1. *Lusts* (epithymia)—dersire, craving, longing, desire for what is forbidden; passionate longings[[1]](#footnote-2)
      2. The inner vicious desires that drive to outward excesses[[2]](#footnote-3)
2. Do not be driving by evil desires

**2 Timothy 2:22**—*Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.*

* 1. The basis is our unredeemed flesh

**Romans 7:17-18**—*So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.****18****For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.*

**Galatians 5:17***—For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.*

* 1. The character of our unredeemed flesh

**Ephesians 2:1-3**—*And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,****2****in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.****3****Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.*

* 1. A love we no longer hold

**1 John 2:15-17**—*Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.****16****For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.****17****The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.*

1. Paul likewise calls us to arm ourselves to do the will of God and abandon our former sins

**Romans 6:8-12**—*Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,****9****knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him.****10****For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.****11****Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.* ***12****Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts,*

1. **Put the Old You Off—no longer former desires**

***3****For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries.****4****In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign you;****5****but they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.*

1. There is a general characterization of the nature of lost humanity

**Romans 1:18-32**—*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,****19****because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.****20****For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.****21****For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.****22****Professing to be wise, they became fools,****23****and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.* ***24****Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them.****25****For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.* ***26****For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural,****27****and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.* ***28****And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper,****29****being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips,* ***30****slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,****31****without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;****32****and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.*

**1 Corinthians 6:9-11**—*Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,****10****nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.****11****Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.*

**Galatians 5:19-21**—*Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality,****20****idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,****21****envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

(Cf. **Eph 5:3-7; Col 3:5-10; 2 Tim 3:1-7**)

1. *For the time already past is sufficient for you* to live in an unregenerate state

**Romans 7:5***—For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death.*

* 1. Your former manner of life is done away with
  2. The pattern of sinfulness that once characterized your life is a closed chapter
  3. It is sufficient—more than enough—to have dealt with it
  4. Peter’s original recipients would have had a life full of the desire of the Gentiles (unconverted people)
  5. Those desires/sinful passions are to be put off

**1 Peter 1:18**—*knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers*

1. Their sensuality perused a course
   1. Sensuality—unbridled lust, excess, licentiousness, lasciviousness, wantonness, outrageousness, shamelessness, insolence, debauchery[[3]](#footnote-4)
      1. To some this is overt
      2. Others it is less obvious

**1 Timothy 5:24**—*The sins of some men are quite evident, going before them to judgment; for others, their sins follow after.*

* 1. Lusts (epithumia)—desire, craving, longing, desire for what is forbidden, lust[[4]](#footnote-5)
     1. These are the sinful passions that drive them
     2. These lusts lead them into such indulgences

**1 Thessalonians 4:4-5***—**that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,****5****not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God;*

**1 Timothy 6:9***—But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.*

**Jude 18***—that they were saying to you, “In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts.”*

* 1. *Drunkenness*—excess of wine[[5]](#footnote-6)
  2. *Carousing*—a nocturnal and riotous procession of half drunken and frolicsome fellows who after supper parade through the streets with torches and music in honour of Bacchus or some other deity, and sing and play before houses of male and female friends; hence used generally of feasts and drinking parties that are protracted till late at night and indulge in revelry[[6]](#footnote-7)
  3. *Drinking parties*—a drinking, carousing[[7]](#footnote-8)
  4. *Abominable idolatries*—contrary to law and justice, prohibited by law, illicit, criminal[[8]](#footnote-9)

1. *They are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation*
   1. Your former friends are shocked that you don’t continue in your former patters
   2. They are outraged and take offense
   3. Why? Because sin is such normal behavior to the unbeliever

**Psalm 64:5**—*They hold fast to themselves an evil purpose; They talk of laying snares secretly; They say, “Who can see them?”*

**John 8:34***—Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.*

**2 Peter 2:14***—having eyes full of adultery that never cease from sin, enticing unstable souls, having a heart trained in greed, accursed children*

* 1. The Christian’s life is radically and forever changed at the new birth

**1 Thessalonians 1:9**—*For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God*

* 1. *“The same excesses of dissipation”…or as one commentator said: a euphoric stampede of pleasure seekers[[9]](#footnote-10)*

1. *They malign you*
   1. One-time friends become enemies
   2. *Malign (*blasphēmeō)—to speak reproachfully, rail at, revile, calumniate, blaspheme[[10]](#footnote-11)
2. There will be a day of reckoning; they will give an account
3. God will judge the living and the dead

**Romans 3:19**—*Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God*

* 1. The living—those alive when Peter wrote the epistle
  2. The dead—those already dead

***2 Thessalonians 1:6-9***—*For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you,****7****and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,****8****dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.****9****These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power*

**Revelation 20:11-15**—*Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.****12****And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.****13****And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds.****14****Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.****15****And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

1. **Put the New You ON—live in the spirit**

***6****For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead, that though they are judged in the flesh as men, they may live in the spirit according to the will of God.*

**Conclusion**

It is when we lose focus of God’s will for our lives, and that we live for His glory, that we slide down the slippery slope of love for this world. If our focus is not rightly place on Him, we will resort to our own desires, passions and sinful tendencies.

**Colossians 3:2-4**—*Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.****3****For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.****4****When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.*

**Source**

Most of the message and notes come from:

Richard W. DeHaan, Good News for Bad Times: 1 Peter

R.C.H. Lenski, The Interpretation of I and II Epistles of Peter, the three Epistles of John, and the Epistle of Jude

John MacArthur, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, 1 Peter

John MacArthur, The Memory The Shuns Sin, Part 1, 1 Peter 4:1, Oct 29, 1989, gty.org

Jerome H Smith, The New Treasure of Scripture Knowledge

# Alan M. Stibbs, The First Epistle General of Peter (Tyndale New Testament Commentaries)

[www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org)

1. Strong’s G1939 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Lenski, 182. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Strong’s G766 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Strong’s G1939 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Strong’s G3632 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. Strong’s G2970 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. Strong’s G4224 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. Strong’s G111 [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. MacArthur, 229. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. Strong’s G987 [↑](#footnote-ref-11)