

**IDENTIFYING
MATURE
CHRISTIANS**

1 PETER 4:1-12

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1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;

2 That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

3 For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:

4 Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:

5 Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.

1 Peter 4:1-12 - continued

6 For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

7 But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

8 And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

1 Peter 4:1-12 - continued

9 Use hospitality one to another without grudging.

10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

Introduction

A. Peter's realizations of sufferings and death of the Christ

1. Redemption by the precious blood of Jesus

1 Peter 1:18-19

18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

Introduction

A. Peter's realizations of sufferings and death of the Christ - continued

2. Christ alone bore our sins on the cross

1 Peter 2:21-25

21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

Introduction

A. Peter's realizations of sufferings and death of the Christ - continued

2. Christ alone bore our sins on the cross

1 Peter 2:21-25 - continued

24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

Introduction

A. Peter's realizations of sufferings and death of the Christ - continued

3. The just for the unjust

1 Peter 3:18

For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

Introduction

B. Peter's personal experience and the cross

Matthew 26:74-76

74 Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew.

75 And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.

I. How Mature Christians Identify With Christ's Sufferings (vv 1-2)

A. Growth brings greater appreciation of the sufferings of Christ

Isaiah 53:5

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

I. How Mature Christians Identify With Christ's Sufferings (vv 1-2)

B. Paul thought the same way

1. I consider myself crucified with Christ

Galatians 2:20-21

20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

I. How Mature Christians Identify With Christ's Sufferings (vv 1-2)

B. Paul thought the same way

**1. I consider myself crucified with Christ - continued
Philippians 3:10**

That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

I. How Mature Christians Identify With Christ's Sufferings (vv 1-2)

B. Paul thought the same way

2. I consider myself alive with Christ

Romans 6:8

Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

I. How Mature Christians Identify With Christ's Sufferings (vv 1-2)

C. We need to have the same mind

1. Christ has won the victory at the cross

1 Corinthians 15:57

But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Identifying with Him brings daily victory

1 Corinthians 15:31

I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

I. How Mature Christians Identify With Christ's Sufferings (vv 1-2)

D. In view of Christ's sufferings, we should forsake sin (v 2)

Romans 6:1-2

1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

I. How Mature Christians Identify With Christ's Sufferings (vv 1-2)

E. The will of God should be our goal (v 2)

Romans 12:2

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

II. How Mature Christians Are Identified By The World (vv 3-6)

A. Our past was not good (v 3)

Ephesians 2:3

Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

II. How Mature Christians Are Identified By The World (vv 3-6)

B. Christ changed our lives

2 Corinthians 5:17

**Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature:
old things are passed away; behold, all things are
become new.**

C. Some cannot understand this change (v 4)

II. How Mature Christians Are Identified By The World (vv 3-6)

D. The world sees our light and prefers darkness

John 3:19

And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

E. We shall be vindicated in judgment (v 6)

Romans 14:12

So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

II. How Mature Christians Are Identified By The World (vv 3-6)

F. Believers must always take the long look (v 7)

1 Corinthians 16:13

Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

III. How Mature Christians Identify With Each Other (vv 8-12)

A. We should be identified by our fervent love (v 8)

John 13:35

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

B. The benefits of love (vv 8-9)

- 1. Covers a multitude of sins**
- 2. Makes hospitality natural**

C. We are to minister to each other (vv 10-11)

- 1. God's grace enables us to minister (v 10)**
- 2. God is glorified in such demonstration of love**

How Mature Are You?