1 Pe 4:1–11, Stewards of Grace



*October 27*

**REVIEW:** [1 Peter](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WhP7AZQlzCg)

**CONTEXT:** Peter wrote to a diverse group of churches that were suffering some form of persecution for their faith in Jesus. He encouraged them by reminding them of their new family identity, how to live out their faith in light of this identity and also in the face of persecution. (This helps give purpose and perspective to their suffering). Finally he speaks of their future hope which motivates such living today.

**FIRST, A.M. SERMON RECAP** (Bill Barwick, 1 Pe 2:11–25, “Living to Please God in a Hostile World”)

* Into what context did Peter write?
* Why is the world hostile to us? Have you experienced this?
* How can we please God in the midst of this? Can you share any encouragements when this has gone well for you?
* Other sermon take-aways.

**READ:** 1 Pet 4:1–11

**QUESTIONS:**

vv. 1–2- Suffering and Sanctification

1. *Suffering [particularly for righteousness sake, ch. 1] is a strange gift God gives to His people that burns away false hopes in false gods and produces holiness and focus on Jesus (1 Pe 1:7).* **How do you tend to view suffering?**
2. *Just prior to our passage, Peter says that Baptism is a picture of being brought from death to life (Jn Jn 4:24), like in the story of Noah and the Ark.*
3. V. 1a- If Jesus suffered, and we are His followers, what logically follows…? **Why is this change of thinking important?**
4. **V. 1b–2- Why does suffering help us stop sinning and live for Jesus?**
5. V. 3- How does this verse describe ancient and modern culture alike; our old selves?
6. *V. 4- Christians are often highly pragmatic in mission, which sometimes conflicts with their call to live principled lives.* **How does holy living trump being missionally relevant? What greater effect does it have? Think of examples.**
7. V. 5- How is this such a reassuring verse in the light of persecution?
8. *V. 6- This means that the Gospel was preached to Christians who at the time were dead in their sin. We are judged in the flesh (in that we physically die like other humans), though we live in the Spirit and will know eternal life because of our faith in Christ (v. 5b).*

vv. 7–11- Misc. Christian Living in Light of the End

1. *V. 7- There are a lot of reasons to live this way.* **What does “for the sake of your prayers” mean?**
2. **V. 8- (c.f. Prov 10:12) If love means a readiness to forgive, how can our forgiving others lead to God forgiving us? (c.f. Sermon on the Mount)**
3. *V. 9- Hospitality existed in an age before inns and hotels*. How does practicing this genuinely fight grumbling?
4. V. 10-11- What Gospel stories speak of stewarding God’s grace? What NT letters speak of using our God-given gifts? In what way are we to use our gifts and to what end?
5. **Are you living out your identity in Christ and in light of His return for His glory to full effect? If not suffering, what might help us in this?**

**NEXT TIME:** November 3, Heb 3, Jesus Greater Than Moses