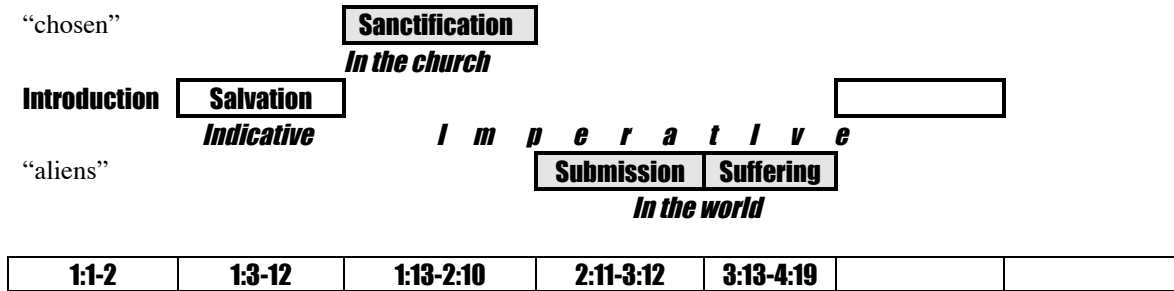


1 Peter 4:1-11



Suffering

The concept of suffering and death is at the heart of our theology of life.

“¹ Therefore, since Christ has **suffered in the flesh (died)**, arm yourselves also with the same purpose (attitude), **(to die with Christ)** because he **(the believer)** who has **suffered in the flesh (died in baptism)** has ceased from sin **(died to 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, carousals, drinking parties and abominable idolatries. ⁴ And in {all} this, they are surprised that you do not run with {them} into the same excess of dissipation, and they malign {you}; ⁵ but they shall 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 **(Christians)** who are **(now)** dead, that though they are judged in the flesh as men **(suffered in the hands of human judgment)**, they may live in the spirit according to {the will of} God **(blessed in the hands of God’s judgment)**.”

Baptism and the Lord's supper – are celebrations of death as the source of life.

I Pet.3:18 “For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit,”

Phil. 3:10 “that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.”

Rom. 6:7 “because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

Gal. 5:24 “Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.”

Gal. 6:14 “May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”

Preparation for “the away game.”

The environment will be hostile. It will try to cause you to question your confidence, lose your cool, work against your teammates, and forget the game plan.

For this reason

- 1. Be confident in who you are and what you represent.**
- 2. Remember your heritage – those who have gone before you.**
- 3. Communicate closely with the coach.**
- 4. Function as a team.**
 - a. Caring deeply for one another.**
 - b. Accepting and supporting each other no matter what.**
 - c. Carrying out your role in the game plan.**

How are those who have died to the lusts of the flesh to carry out vs.2 “the will of God”?

Our posture toward God - Sober in Prayer

7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober {spirit} for the purpose of prayer.

Our posture toward Christians – Fervent in loving one another

8 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

Eager in receiving one another.

9 Be hospitable to one another without complaint.

Wise in serving one another.

10 As each one has received a {special} gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

1. Let your speech be from God.

11 Whoever speaks, {let him speak,} as it were, the utterances of God;

2. Let your service come from God also.

whoever serves, {let him do so} as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

What are Spiritual Gifts?

1. The gifts are bestowed on the body (the church) by the Spirit of Christ for the edification of the church. I Cor.12:7; 14:5,12
2. No one person has all the gifts nor is any one of the gifts bestowed on all persons. I Cor.12:14-30
3. Although not equally conspicuous, all gifts are important. I Cor.12:22-26
4. The Holy Spirit apportions the various gifts to whom and as he wills. I Cor.12:11
5. Dangers to be avoided in the use of spiritual gifts. (I Cor.12-14)
 - Gifts are not to be confused with God’s special favor, spirituality, virtue of character, or maturity.
 - Less dramatic gifts are to be honored, not belittled.
 - The gift of tongues is not to be exalted or universalized.
 - Gifts of revelation are to be tested and evaluated critically.
 - A gift’s manifestation is to be recognized not by its form but by its content.
 - A genuine gift can be misused.
6. Gifts of prophecy are to be desired above other gifts.

I Peter 4:11 “Whoever **speaks**, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever **serves**, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

Speaking	Supervising	Serving	Sign
prophecy evangelists teaching exhortation	Apostles pastors/ teachers	wisdom knowledge faith healings	miracles tongues

tongues interpretation	administrat- ion	miracles discernment	
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I Cor.12:4-6 “Now there are varieties of **gifts**, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of **ministries**, and the same Lord. And there are varieties of **effects**, but the same God who works all things in all persons.”

<i>Motivations</i>	<i>Ministries</i>	<i>Manifestations</i>
Aptitude	Ordination	Word Effected (result)
Creative powers	Administrations	Operations
Distribution	Recognition	Contribution
By the Holy Spirit	When ordained by elders (church)	To the body of Christ To the world
<i>When?</i> At the moment of salvation	<i>When?</i> At the time of ordination the body recognizes the gifted one.	<i>When?</i> When “gift”, “ministry”, and “the Holy Spirit” work together.
<i>How many?</i> Basic motives, gifts, aptitudes	<i>How many?</i> Infinite number	<i>How many?</i> Infinite number
Gifts of the first	Gifts of the	Gifts of the third

order (Rom. 12)	second order (Eph. 4)	order (I Cor. 12:7)
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Rom.12:1-8 The proper use of Spiritual gifts

“¹ I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God,

1. We must have our lives grounded in the “mercies” (grace) of God before we address the use of gifts.

to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, {which is} your spiritual service of worship.

2. We must be willing to “die to selfish motives” and not use our gifts as a surrogate Messiah.

² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

3. We must challenge the way the world thinks about the use of resources.

³ For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. ⁴ For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

4. We must be willing to minister with humility, respecting the full diversity of gifts in the same body.

⁶ And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, {let each exercise them accordingly}: if prophecy, according to the

proportion of his faith; 7 if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; 8 or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”

5. Respect for unity and diversity is important. Church leaders have a responsibility to oversee the use of the gifts in the church.

<i>Prep for “the away game.”</i>	<i>Christian aliens in the world</i>
<p><i>Be confident in who you are and what you represent.</i></p> <p><i>Remember your heritage – those who have gone before you.</i></p> <p><i>Communicate closely with the coach.</i></p> <p><i>Function as a team.</i></p> <p><i>Caring deeply for one another.</i></p> <p><i>Accepting and supporting</i></p>	<p>Baptism</p> <p>I Peter 4:1-11</p> <p>The saints that have suffered in the flesh but are now alive in the spirit.</p> <p>Sober in Prayer</p> <p>Fervent in loving one another</p>

<p><i>each other no matter what.</i></p> <p><i>Carrying out your role in the game plan.</i></p>	<p>Eager in receiving one another.</p> <p>Wise in serving one another.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Let your speech be from God.2. Let your service come from God also.
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