

1 Peter 4

1. In God's eyes, are men more important than women?

-No.

2. In God's eyes, are women less important than men?

-No.

3. If women are just as important than men, then why must wives submit to their husbands?

-Because this is God's design for the family, and God's design is the best.

4. When is life best in the family?

-When the husband leads and the wife follows.

5. Is the real beauty of a woman on the outside or on the inside?

-On the inside.

6. Do Christian husbands and Christian wives have an equal inheritance in Christ?

-Yes.

7. If a husband is not considerate to his wife, can this hinder his prayers?

-Yes.

8. Who alone is stronger than evil?

-God and His goodness.

9. Even when we Christians are suffering in the flesh for doing good, what can we do on the inside?

-Continue to bless Christ in us.

Let's read 1 Peter 4:1-2

1-Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin.

2-As a result, they do not live the rest of their earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God.

-Once again, the Word of God teaches us about suffering.

-Does the Word of God teach us that if we suffer we will never sin again?

-No.

-What does it mean "whoever suffers in the body is done with sin"?

-It means that we do not live our lives on earth "for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God."

-Are all human desires on earth evil?

-No.

-There are many human desires which God has given us that are good.

-We desire food to eat, a warm, dry place to sleep, a spouse and children who will love us, and friends who will not betray us.

-What are some of the evil human desires on earth?

-The next verses give us the answer:

Let's read 1 Peter 4:3-5

3-For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry.

4-They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you.

5-But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

-In 1 Peter 4:3, God and Peter are reminding us Christians about our lives before we believed in Christ, and the sins from which Christ has saved us.

-Those who are not true Christians heap abuse on us which is also a type of suffering.

-We should, however, explain to these people that they will have to stand before Christ one day.

-What is one of the biggest problems with sin?

-For many, it seems to be wonderful at the time, but in the end, it will kill you.

Let's read 1 Peter 4:6

6-For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to human standards in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit.

-Some people tell us that this verse means that it is possible to preach the gospel to the dead so that they can believe, but this is not true.

-After you die, there is no second chance to believe in Christ.

-The Word of God does not teach that there is a stopping place between heaven and hell.

-When you die, you immediately go to heaven or to hell.

-Who are "those who are now dead"?

-They are Christians who had already died before God through Peter wrote this letter.

-Even though Christians in the past may have suffered and Christians today also suffer in their bodies, we will live with God in spirit.

Let's read 1 Peter 4:7-9

7-The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray.

8-Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

9-Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

-According to 1 Peter 4:7, what is near?

-The end of all things.

-What are "all things"?

-Life as we know it on this earth.

-How can it be near when this was written some two thousand years ago?

-Firstly, it is God who is saying that the end of all things is near, and therefore, in God's eyes, it is near.

-Secondly, God wants us to live understanding that the end can come at any time.

-Why is it important to live understanding that the end can come at any time?

-Then, we will be careful about how we live.

Let's read 1 Peter 4:10-11

10-Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

11-If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

-All Christians have been given gifts by God, and the gifts are different.

-Are some gifts that God gives more important than others?

-No.

-All gifts are important.

-No gift is unimportant in God's eyes.

-When we Christians speak, we should allow the Lord Jesus to speak through us.

-When the Lord Jesus was on earth, He allowed the Father to speak through Him.

-In John 12:49, the Lord Jesus said this:

-“For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken.”

-When we Christians work, we should allow the Lord Jesus to work through us.

-When the Lord Jesus was on earth, He allowed the Father to work through Him.

-In John 10:32, the Lord Jesus said this:

-"I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?"

-The Lord Jesus should be our example.

-Just as the Lord Jesus allowed the Father to speak and work through Him, we should allow Christ to speak and work through us.

Let's read 1 Peter 4:12-13

12-Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

13-But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

-The Word of God teaches us that we should not be surprised when we have trials and suffering.

-Do we participate in the sufferings of Christ when we suffer for our sins we have done?

-No.

-When do we participate in the sufferings of Christ?

-When we suffer even though we have not sinned.

-It is when we suffer for our belief in Christ that we participate in the sufferings of Christ.

Let's read 1 Peter 4:14-16

14-If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

15-If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler.

16-However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.

-When we suffer because of Christ, we should not be ashamed but blessed, for God Himself rests on us.

Let's read 1 Peter 4:17-18

17-For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

18-And, "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

-Is the "time for judgment" when everyone will be judged before God at the end of days?

-No.

-God and Peter are writing to Christians and the time for judgment is now.

-Additionally, Christians will not be judged for their sins as Christ has paid for our sins on the cross.

-What is the judgment that God and Peter are talking about?

-It is the suffering that must happen on the earth.

-What is the difference between suffering for the Christian and suffering for the non-Christian?

-For the Christian, God allows suffering to purify us.

-If our suffering is not from sin, then we must remember that God is not punishing us.

-Just as gold is purified in the fire, so the heart of a Christian is purified in the fire of suffering.

-For the non-Christian, God allows suffering to help them to cry out to God to be saved.

-If the non-Christian continues to reject God, then they will suffer in the Lake of Fire.

-For the Christian, the worst that we will suffer is here on the earth.

-For the non-Christian, the worst that they will suffer is not here on earth, but rather in eternity in the Lake of Fire.

Let's read 1 Peter 4:19

19-So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

-Does God want us to suffer?

-No, because when God created the world, there was no sin and no suffering.

-Where do sin and suffering come from?

-Not from God, but from people.

-It was Adam and Eve who first brought sin and suffering to this world.

-With this verse, however, we learn that some suffering is according to God's will.

-Is all suffering according to God's will?

-Because God is sovereign, and nothing happens on this earth without God's permission, you could say that all suffering is according to God's will.

-Why do we suffer?

- Some of our suffering is because of our own sin.
- Some of our suffering is because of the sin of others.
- All of our suffering is because we live in a world of sin.
- In heaven, we will no longer suffer because there is no sin in heaven.
- Here on earth, a pastor has said that suffering is the best tool that God has.
- This means that God uses suffering greatly in our lives.
- With suffering, we learn that we are not perfect and that we need God.
- Without suffering, we would not learn that we need God.
- With suffering, we cry out to God to save us from the sin of others.
- With suffering, we cry out to God to save us from our own sin.
- Without suffering, we would not cry out to God.
- With suffering we realize that this sinful world is not where we want to live forever.
- With suffering, we realize that to be in heaven with God is far better than earth.

- Without suffering, we would want to stay in this world of sin forever.
- For a non-believer, how does God use suffering?
- When a non-believer suffers, they can cry out to God to save them, and if they are sincere, God will save their soul.
- For a Christian, how does God use suffering?
- Our faith is increased because of suffering.
- Our faith is proven because of suffering.
- On this earth, who has suffered the greatest?
- The Lord Jesus.
- Even though He had done no wrong, had never hurt anyone, nor had ever sinned, He was hated, spit on, whipped, beaten, and suffered the worst death—crucified on the cross.
- What has come from Christ's greatest suffering?
- Eternal life for people from every tongue, tribe, and nation.
- God takes the tragedy of suffering and turns it into good in order to save our lives.
- From the greatest suffering comes the greatest triumph.