

One Way Christ's Followers Stand Out in a World of Excess 1 Peter 4:1-6

For Christ's followers, a whole new way to process our thoughts and intentions

¹ Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh,
arm yourselves with the same way of thinking,

The outcome:

for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,
² so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions
but for the will of God.

Life otherwise! Out of control!

³ For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do,
living in sensuality,
passions,
drunkenness,
orgies,
drinking parties,
and lawless idolatry.

**These activities characterized
the pagan worship of the day;
religion as an excuse for
satisfying the lusts of the
flesh.**

⁴ With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of
debauchery,
and they malign you;

**People giving themselves to
excess are not content unless
others join with them.**

A different outcome:

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

The Gospel impact, even upon those who have died!

⁶ For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead,
that though judged in the flesh the way people are,
they might live in the spirit the way God does.

Then Peter explains two results of gospel-preaching not only to people still living but also to people who died but heard and believed the gospel before dying. First, they suffered unjust judgment at the hands of their fellow (but non-Christian) human beings. "As to flesh" implies the suffering of martyrdom, just as in 3:18 "as to flesh" had to do with Christ's "having been put to death." Second, the Holy Spirit will resurrect them to eternal life in accordance with God's just judgment. (*Gundry, Commentary on the New Testament, pg. 951*)