

1 Peter
Part Seven: Check Your Attitude
Pastor Rick Henderson **March 18-19, 2023**

1 PETER 4:1-2 *Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin. As a result, they do not live the rest of their earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God.*

MATTHEW 11:28-30 *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”*

We have to **RESPOND** to abuse. We don't have to **RETURN** it.

Salvation is **FREE**, but that doesn't mean it won't **COST** you.

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QUESTION: Why were Jesus followers targets for abuse?

Family members who broke ancestral traditions on the basis of their new-found faith showed an appalling lack of concern for their familial responsibilities...The exclusivity of the Christians' religion—their arrogant refusal to take part in, or to consider valid, the worship of any God but their own—deeply wounded public sensibilities. Such an unnatural and ungrateful attitude to the gods even branded them as “atheists.” Moreover, it was highly dangerous for even one segment of the community to slight the gods, whose wrath was ever to be feared. Civic peace, the success of agriculture, and freedom from earthquake or flood were regularly attributed to the benevolence of the gods. —J.M.G. Barclay

A man becomes a Christian; he is not born one. —Tertullian

MATTHEW 10:34-36 *“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn “ ‘a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law— a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.”*

Our allegiance to Jesus may **CREATE** conflict. Our attitudes shouldn't **CONTRIBUTE** to it.

TRAJECTORY OF FULL DEVOTION

1. Look to Jesus. **(Authority)**
2. See ourselves through Jesus. **(Identity)**
3. Others see Jesus through us. **(Activity)**

1 PETER 4:3-4 *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. They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and **they heap abuse on you.***

Be a fully present and active participant in **SOCIETY**, not **SIN**.

5 FEATURES THAT MADE THE EARLY CHURCH UNIQUE:

1. It was multi-racial and experienced unity across ethnic boundaries.
2. It was a community of forgiveness and reconciliation.
3. It was famous for its hospitality to the poor and suffering.
4. It was committed to the sanctity of life.
5. It was a sexual counterculture.

(Source: Tim Keller)

It was because the early church didn't fit in with its surrounding culture, but rather challenged it in love, that Christianity eventually had such an effect on it. —Tim Keller

QUESTION: Where do sexual ethics come from?

- If they come from nature, we have no reasonable basis to protect the weak from the strong.
- If societies create them, whatever is dictated by the ones with the most power is correct.
- If individuals create them, we have no reasonable basis to protest when someone disagrees with us.
- If they come from a transcendent authority, we are all accountable.

1 PETER 4:5-6 *But they will have to **give account to him who is ready to judge** the living and the dead. 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.*

BAD NEWS: Everyone will be **JUDGED**.

GOOD NEWS: We can either be judged on what we **DO** or what Jesus **DID**.

1 PETER 4:7-11 *The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 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.*

HOW TO LIVE OUT JESUS' VICTORY

1. Think rightly and be clear-minded so you can pray.
2. Persist in love for one another that "covers" sin.
3. Be graciously hospitable to fellow believers without complaining.
4. Serve one another with gifts of grace you have received.

(Source: Karen H. Jobes)

1 PETER 4:12-19 *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. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. 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? And, "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.*

SERIES THESIS: Let your **IDENTITY** drive your **ACTIVITY**.