

1 Peter 4:1, Arm yourselves with the mind of Christ, Part 1
GCC, 12/16/18, Morning Worship

Introduction

- A. Have you ever suffered for Christ's sake?
- B. The Culture is becoming increasingly hostile toward genuine Christians
- C. High School French Teacher Terminated for not using appropriate pronouns for transgender student (Rom 14:21–23). Pay homage to my identity!
- D. First Century Christians faced a similar challenge. Pay homage to Caesar!
- E. Both examples have similarities:
 - 1. The Christian is ordered to declare something to be so that they, in their hearts and minds, do not believe to be so.
 - 2. Political correctness, as defined by the State, makes this demand upon their consciences. *It is of the essence of religion to require people to affirm as true what they cannot see.*
- F. 1 Peter 3:17, “For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.”
- G. We need a weapon to endure suffering

Main Idea: *The mindset of Christ will prepare us for and carry us through our suffering for Christ*

1. The Weapon Against Suffering in the Christian Life (4:1)

- A. Arm yourselves
- B. With the same way of thinking—the intention of Christ to follow the will of the Father (1 Peter 3:17–18; 4:2)

2. The Centrality of the Cross in the Christian life (4:1)

- A. The Cross is central in the life of the Suffering Christian (cf. 3:22 with 4:1)
- B. Christ's life summed up in four stages and three offices:
 - 1. Cradle—Sent as Prophet
 - 2. Cross—Sacrificed as Priest
 - 3. Crown—Rules as King
 - 4. Clouds (2nd Coming)—Judges as King
- C. John 6:53–56—Eating and Drinking of Christ is Abiding in Him
- D. In the “not yet” of the Christian Life, the Cross Has Prominence
- E. John 1:29—Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the Sin of the World
- F. Christians have a theology of the Cross, not a theology of Glory

3. **The Intentional Resolution of the Christian Life**

- A. Arming yourself means you are intentional with this weapon
 - 1. Jesus set his face like a flint toward Jerusalem (Lk. 9:51-53):
 - 2. Prepared to die and prepared to suffer are two different things
 - 3. Intentionality Begins today

- B. Arming Yourself means you are familiar with and proficient in the use of this weapon
 - 1. A good soldier exercises familiarity with and proficiency in his weapon
 - 2. Practice Greater intentionality in your spiritual life than you do in your temporal life

- C. Arming yourself means you use the example of Christ

Conclusion:

- A. Christ's Suffering is a pattern and a guarantee for Christians

- B. The Suffering of the unconverted will give way to ultimate suffering if they do not repent and believe.