


TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS

A publication of , the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

2019.8.4

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. —Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. —Joshua 22:5

Questions for Reflection and Discussion



- 1 Peter 4:1-2 states: **"Since Christ suffered physical pain, you must arm yourselves with the same attitude he had, and be ready to suffer, too. For if you have suffered physically for Christ, you have finished with sin. You won't spend the rest of your lives chasing your own desires, but you will be anxious to do the will of God."** [New Living Translation]

Does the promise that you can be **"finished with sin"** and not **"spend the rest of your life chasing your own desires"** sound too good to be true? Why or why not?

Peter says that this is achieved when one has **"armed himself with Christ's attitude and suffered physically for Him"**. Read Philippians 2:3-8. To what degree have you adopted Christ's attitude? How confident are you that you are ready to suffer for Christ?

- Read 1 Peter 4:4. Tell about a time friends "from your non-Christian days" reconnected with you. Were they "surprised that you no longer run with them into the destructive things you used to do"? Tell us about it?

Did they slander you? If so, how? ("Slander" is a malicious, false, defamatory statement about you.)

- Look at the list of sinful human passions (**boldface red type** in the **Sermon Summary**).

Which of those **still** cause you difficulties?

What steps have you taken to grow and change?

How can your church family help you?

Does your behavior honor God?
Let a biblical counselor help you!
counseling@tcc.org

Application-Challenge

- If you've not already done so, embrace Christ as your Savior.
- Live for the will of God, not for the passions of men, which incur God's judgment.
- Let your Christian light shine brightly in this dark world.
- Take a stand for Christ in our culture, which is increasingly hostile to our faith.

Sermon Summary Key Text: 1 Peter 4:1-6

Peter reminds us that because our ultimate citizenship is in heaven, this world isn't our true home. We are representatives of a different kingdom, and we need to live that way. Like foreign tourists visiting another country, how we conduct ourselves may be the only glimpse our non-Christian friends get of what God and his kingdom are like. That's why it is so important that we live in a manner consistent with who God has called us to be.

Peter opens chapter 4 with the word "therefore". Anytime you see the word, "therefore", you need to ask yourselves, "What is it there for?" Peter is saying: "In light of everything I have just written about Jesus, now I want to present you with some practical conclusions about how you should live." (1 Peter 4:1-3). Sin's dominion over us is finished, so when we sin as Christians, we do so because we choose to, not because we have to. The Greek word translated as "arm yourselves" (v. 1) is a military term that refers to a soldier taking up weapons in preparation for battle. Christians are to arm ourselves with the knowledge that Jesus defeated sin at the cross. Peter is reminding us that we're not tourists here. We are not vacationing our way to heaven! We are soldiers, and all around us a great spiritual battle rages. The danger is real, and the enemy is formidable. And so Peter gives us **four truths with which we are to arm ourselves for our tour of duty in this spiritually hostile world.** [1] We no longer serve sin as our master (4:1), [2] we don't spend our days overwhelmed by our desires (4:2a), [3] we live for the will of God (4:2b), and [4] we abandon lustful living (4:3). We will either live for our passions or for the will of God (4:2)—and Christians must not love the world (1 John 2:15-16).

Sadly, **most of us are driven by our passions**—"a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries" (v. 3). "**Sensuality**" is a life without moral restraint, especially in giving oneself over to acts of sexual immorality or acts of physical violence (cf. Rom. 13:13; Gal. 5:19; Eph. 4:19; 2 Pet. 2:7). "**Lust**" refers to a broad range of sinful human desires which exert strong influences on our actions. "**Drunkenness**" describes anyone who is controlled by substance abuse. "**Carousing**" describes wild parties involving sexual immorality. "**Drinking parties**" are the sort of party that promotes drunkenness and other immoral behavior. Finally, "**abominable idolatries**" refers to the worship of anything other than the one true God.

Most often, idols aren't little statues—they reside in our hearts. Things such as pleasure, love, comfort, security, human approval, control, freedom/autonomy, peace, happiness, acceptance, admiration, respect, and success. You know you have a heart idol problem when you're willing to sin to get these things, or when you respond in a sinful way when you're denied them. Our culture loves these things and reacts negatively to God's light (John 3:19-20). And that is why the unsaved often respond with push-back to your Christian faith (1 Peter 4:4). They judge you for seeking to do the will of God, but they will one day face the ultimate judgment (v. 5). Peter is writing to Christians in the first century who were being mistreated and unjustly persecuted for their faith. Some of them were martyred for their faith, but Peter's point in v. 6 is that they did not die in vain. All of us would benefit greatly from reading both historical and modern accounts of Christians who have suffered for their faith, such as **Foxe's Book of Martyrs**.

Have you embraced Christ as your Savior? If not, what is holding you back? Are you living for the passions of men, or for the will of God? If you are living for the passions of men, Peter warns that God's just judgment awaits. If you are a Christian, are you committed to letting your light shine brightly in a dark world? Are you willing to take a stand for Christ in a culture that is increasingly hostile to the Christian faith? We need to be aware of the potential consequences of Christ-like living. In some places, it can cost you your life. In our country, you may be ridiculed and belittled. It may cost you a friend or maybe even your job. But it is a small price to pay to be faithful to the One who suffered and died for you. And perhaps God will use your example to draw your friends and neighbors to himself.

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

"Five Question Bible Study" (see page below) is a simple way to study any passage.
Let's use it to learn more about "idols of the heart"...

Monday— Ezekiel 14:1-8

Tuesday— Galatians 5:16-24

Wednesday— 1 John 5:18-21

Thursday— 1 Thessalonians 1:2-9

Friday— Colossians 3:1-11

Saturday— ***In preparation for worshipping your risen Lord tomorrow with your church family,*** study 1 Peter 4:7-11.

Need blank copies for doing more

"Five Question Bible Study"?

e-mail: Dan.Clement.TCC@gmail.com

Bible Text: _____

Date: _____



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) it is found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text? [and what was their response?]