

R E M E M B E R Y O U R

H O P E

1 Peter 4:1-11

Introduction

- Our old lifestyle of sin is in the past.
- Family and friends who still live that lifestyle may not understand the changes in our new life.
- We are to continue to live as kingdom people no matter what they say.
- As kingdom people, we are to love each other earnestly with the love God has shown us, show hospitality without grumbling, and use our God-given gifts to His kingdom.

Your lifestyle of sin is in the past

Lifestyle

- 1 Peter 4:1-6
- Peter encourages them to “arm yourselves with the same way of thinking.”
- This is a reminder that life is a spiritual battle, and we must arm ourselves for it (Ephesians 6:10–18).
- We are to arm ourselves by the transformation that comes with allowing God to renew our minds (Romans 12:1–2).

Lifestyle

- Peter says those who have suffered in the flesh have “ceased from sin.”
- Not that they will never struggle with temptation again, but have been set free from the bondage of sin (Romans 6:1–14; 8:1–11).
- Sin still exists in the world. There are still temptations, and we will still fail sometimes.
- Though still tempted by sin, our lifestyle of sin is in the past (1 Peter 4:3).
- We don’t participate in a flood of debauchery (1 Peter 4:4)

Your new lifestyle is to
live as kingdom people

Kingdom People

- 1 Peter 4:7-9
- Peter reminds them that “the end of all things is at hand.”
- The phrase is used here historically to refer to the entire Church Age, the time between Christ’s First and Second Coming, as “the end of all things.”
- How should we live?
- Peter uses contrasts: “self-controlled and sober-minded” (1 Peter 4:7) vs. “living in sensuality and passions and drunkenness” (1 Peter 4:4).

Kingdom People

- Paul tells believers not to be drunk with wine but to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).
- When you get drunk, you give up control of your mind to the alcohol.
- When you are “drunk with the Spirit” you give up control of your mind to the Spirit.
- Both self-control and having the mind of Christ are crucial to godly prayer.

Kingdom People

- Peter focuses loving one another and hospitality without grumbling.
- He doesn't criticize the way they have loved each other up to this point.
- He says keep loving one another *earnestly*, encouraging them to continue loving one another the way they have been.
- The word translated "earnestly" here literally means "to stretch," as an athlete or horse stretching to run at maximum speed.
- Kingdom people are to love as God loves, with radical, selfless, *agape* love.

When we serve others using our gifts,
God is glorified

Stewards of Gifts

- 1 Peter 4:10-11
- Peter briefly addresses how they were to use the specific gifts God has given each one of them to serve the body of Christ.
- Paul discusses this more fully in his letters.
- He describes the Church being like a body, each part is important and needs each other to make the whole body work (1 Corinthians 12:12–31).

Stewards of Gifts

- We are “stewards” of these gifts we have been given.
- In the ancient world, a steward managed his master’s property. He didn’t own any of the property; he was just the manager of it.
- A master might give a steward incentives to encourage him to do a good job.
- If the steward made money on an investment or grew a larger harvest or made similar gains, the profit wasn’t his to keep.
- It still belonged to the master (e.g., Parable of the Talents).

Stewards of Gifts

- All we are and all we have belong to God and should be used to invest in His kingdom and His glory (Colossians 3:17).
- Peter teaches that every person in the Church has been given a gift by God.
- Every single person needs to be using that gift in ministry (1 Peter 4:10).
- Notice that the focus in these verses is on God.
- God gives the gifts (1 Peter 4:10). We are stewards of God's grace (1 Peter 4:10). We speak "oracles" of God. (1 Peter 4:11).

Praise

- Peter ends this section with a short line of praise.
- He talks about God's being glorified (verse 11).
- As believers who are looking forward in hope to our glorious future inheritance.
- We know that all that we do on this earth is through God and for God.
- Our whole purpose is to glorify Him and build His kingdom.