

w/b 7<sup>th</sup> April 2019 - ANOTHER BRICK IN THE WALL

THEME: LIVING A NEW LIFE IN A FAILING WORLD

PASSAGE 1 PETER 4 vs 1-11

LAUNCH

Can you remember a time when you were hopelessly in love with someone perhaps in your youth? How did this change your thinking and pattern of behaviour?

DISCOVERY & UNDERSTANDING

1. For the Christian, Jesus' death on the cross provides us with many things. In 4:1 Peter indicates two of the things that Jesus' death provides. In the first part of the verse, Jesus' death is lifted up as an example for believers to follow. What is the example that believers can follow when it comes to Jesus death on the cross?
2. In the second part of the verse, being affiliated with Jesus death allows believers to be "done" with sin. What do you think this means? (see also Romans 6:1-11 for a parallel passage)
3. Coming into a relationship with Jesus Christ inevitably leads to noticeable life change (4:2-3). In your own life, what kinds of things have changed since you began living "for the will of God" not "evil human desires?"
4. Peter notes that this life change could cause you difficulty with those who knew you in your pre-Christian days. According to 4:4-5, what is the reason for the abuse they give you? What perspective does Peter share to encourage us to stay true to the faith when our friends may reject us (4:5)? Have you ever experienced anything like this?
5. 1 Peter 4:6 is a difficult verse to understand. What do you think it means?
6. From 4:7-11, Peter again talks about some of the keys to having good relationships with others . . . particularly inside the church. What are some of the commands Peter gives in these verses about relating to one another? List them here.
7. In what way does "love cover over a multitude of sins" in your relationships with others? Is there a relationship in your life right now that would benefit from practising this command?
8. "Hospitality" literally means "an active love for others/strangers." In what ways have you seen Christians show hospitality? In what ways can you show hospitality without grumbling?
9. 4:10-11 talk about putting your spiritual gifts into practice so that you can serve others. In what ways do you think God has gifted you for service? How can you serve in such a way that God receives the glory (4:11) and not you?

APPLICATION

Spend time praying for one another and the church that we will live to the Spirit and not the flesh. Please pray especially for the addiction recovery group on Saturday night where the spiritual battle is especially tough. Pray that those attending will be able win out in their war against addiction and turn to Christ.

*Most questions from pastor mark robinson.com, an excellent study*