

1 Peter 4:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh,
arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath
suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;

Analysis

Peter draws imperative from Christ's suffering. "Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind" (Christou oun pathontos sarki kai hymēis tēn autēn ennoian hoplisasthe). "Arm yourselves" (hoplisasthe) uses military imagery—equip yourself as soldier preparing for battle. "Same mind" (tēn autēn ennoian) refers to Christ's mindset regarding suffering—willingness to suffer righteously, trusting God. The principle: "for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin" (hoti ho pathōn sarki pepautai hamartian). Suffering in flesh breaks sin's power—those who've truly suffered for Christ have broken with sin's dominion. Willingness to suffer demonstrates sin's hold is broken.

Historical Context

Peter doesn't mean sinless perfection but that true Christians, willing to suffer for Christ, have decisively broken with sin's tyranny. Facing persecution forced decision: compromise faith to avoid suffering, or suffer to maintain faithfulness. Those who chose suffering demonstrated regeneration—valuing Christ above comfort, willing to endure rather than sin. Early church martyrs exemplified this—choosing death over denying Christ proved sin's power broken in their lives. Modern application: willingness to sacrifice for Christ (reputation, comfort, possessions) demonstrates sin's broken hold. Those controlled by sin won't sacrifice for righteousness.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does willingness to suffer for Christ (rather than compromise) demonstrate that sin's power over you is broken?
2. What does 'arming yourself with Christ's mindset toward suffering' look like practically in daily decisions?

Interlinear Text

Χριστοῦ	οὐν	παθὼν	ὑπὲρ	ἡμῶν	σαρκὶ		
Christ	Forasmuch then as	hath suffered	for	us	in the flesh		
G5547	G3767	G3958	G5228	G2257	G4561		
καὶ	ὑμεῖς	τὴν	αὐτὴν	ἔννοιαν	ὁπλίσασθε	ὅτι	ό
likewise	yourselves	G3588	with the same	mind	arm	for	G3588
G2532	G5210	G846	G1771	G3695	G3754		
παθὼν	ἐν	σαρκὶ	πέπαυται	ἀμαρτίας			
hath suffered	in	in the flesh	hath ceased	from sin			
G3958	G1722	G4561	G3973	G266			

Additional Cross-References

Galatians 5:24 (References Christ): And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

1 Peter 3:18 (Sin): For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

Romans 6:11 (Sin): Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Galatians 2:20 (References Christ): I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Romans 6:7 (Sin): For he that is dead is freed from sin.

Isaiah 1:16 (Parallel theme): Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil;

Ephesians 6:13 (Parallel theme): Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Philippians 2:5 (References Christ): Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Romans 6:2 (Sin): God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

Hebrews 12:3 (Sin): For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.