



**"Getting Armed with Attitude"**  
**1 Peter: The Transforming Epistle**  
**1 Peter 4:1-6**

**Introduction:**

"Christians at War!" -- We are at war with our flesh • We are at war with the devil • We are at war with the world • We are at war with hatred and injustice • We are especially in a war for the souls of men!

1 Peter 4:1-6 "Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries. In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign you; but they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead, that though they are judged in the flesh as men, they may live in the spirit according to the will of God."

1 Peter 2:11-12 "Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation."

**I. Getting Prepared for War**

1 Peter 4:1 "Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh..."

Christ suffered in His war against sin and death. We who are soldiers of Jesus Christ are in the same war as He was. And just like Him, we will most likely get hurt (cf. 1 Thess. 1:6)

**II. Getting Armed with Attitude**

1 Peter 4:1 "Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose..."

Our Commander has given us all the necessary defensive armor to defend ourselves cf. Eph. 6:11, 13; 2 Cor. 10:3-5  
Philippians 2:5 "Have this attitude in yourselves which was also Christ Jesus...."

Jesus knew who He was and why He had been sent here. He knew the cost of doing the will of His Heavenly Father (cf. 2 Cor. 6:1-10)

Romans 8:18 "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

### III. Getting Blessed and Bruised

#### A. Being Armed with Attitude Changes Our FOCUS

##### 1. Willingness to suffer changes our focus about sinning.

1 Peter 4:1 "Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin..."

##### 2. Willingness to suffer changes our focus about living

1 Peter 4:1-2 Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God."

#### The Two Ways to Live the Rest of Our Lives

**Choice #1. Living for the Lusts of Men** = Living a Lifestyle of Satisfying the Flesh = The Goal is Happiness at Any Cost

**Choice #2. Living for the Will of God** = Living a Lifestyle of Satisfying God = The Goal is Holiness at Any Cost

2 Timothy 2:4 "No soldier in active service entangles himself in affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier."

John 4:34 "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work."

#### B. Being Armed with Attitude Changes Our PHILOSOPHY

1 Peter 4:3 "For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries."

**Philosophy Shift #1 - "I know now that the good old days were not such good old days."**

**Philosophy Shift #2 - "I understand now that the 'counsel of the ungodly' was just that...ungodly"**

1 Peter 4:3 "For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles..."

#### The Counsel of the Ungodly

Ungodly Advice #1: "Pursue a lifestyle of sensuality."

Ungodly Advice #2: "Pursue a lifestyle of lusts"

Ungodly Advice #3: "Pursue a lifestyle of drunkenness"

Ungodly Advice #4: "Pursue a lifestyle of carousing"

Ungodly Advice #5: "Pursue a lifestyle of drinking parties"

Ungodly Advice #6: "Pursue a lifestyle of abominable idolatries."

Psalms 1:1 "Blessed (i.e. happy) is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked..."

1 Corinthians 6:11 "And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God."

### C. Being Armed with Attitude Changes Our FRIENDSHIPS

**Sad Reality #1 - Our old friends are shocked at our conversion.**

1 Peter 4:4 "In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation..."

**Sad Reality #2 - Our old friends attack our character.**

1 Peter 4:4 "...and they malign you..."

**Sad Reality #3 - Our old friends will have to answer to the Creator.**

1 Peter 4:5 "...but they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead." cf. Rom.14:12; Heb. 4:13

### D. Being Armed with Attitude Changes What We FEAR

1 Peter 4:6 "For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead, that though they are judged in the flesh as men, they may live in the spirit according to the will of God." (cf. Matt. 10:28; Rev. 2:10)

#### Concluding Challenge:

John 15:18-19 "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you."

#### The Beatitudes (The Be Armed with Attitudes) Matthew 5:3-12

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

"Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth."

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy."

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

"Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when men cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me. Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

**"Whosoever knows best how to suffer will keep the greatest peace. That man is conqueror of himself, and lord of the world, the friend of Christ, and heir of Heaven." (Thomas a Kempis)**

#### Discussion Questions:

1. In what ways have you been "bruised and blessed" in fighting the Lord's battles?
2. How has your philosophy of life changed since you came to Christ?
3. How do your unbelieving friends feel about your relationship to Christ?
4. What does it specifically mean to you to be "armed with attitude"?
5. What did you get most out of this message?