

## *Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript*

### **Why Should I Hate Sin?**

**1 Peter 4:1-6**

#### **Part One**

Is it sin for us to be filled with “hate?” It depends. It depends upon what we hate. **Ps. 97:10** says, **“Hate evil, you who love the Lord....”** Certainly to hate those for whom Christ died for is not right, but to hate sin is not only right, it is necessary!

In a book written in 1669 a man named Ralph Vining wrote this paragraph about sin, **“In general, sin is the worst of evils the evil of evils and indeed the only evil, nothing is so evil as sin, nothing is evil but sin, as the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us so neither the sufferings of this life nor of that to come are worthy to be compared as evil with the evil of sin. No evil is displeasing to God or destructive to men, but the evil of sin. Sin is worse than affliction, than death, than the devil, than hell. Affliction is not so afflictive, death is not so deadly, the devil is not so devilish, hell is not so hellish as sin is. The four evils I have just named are truly terrible and from all of them everyone is ready to say, ‘Good Lord deliver us.’ Yet none of these or all of them together are as bad as sin. Therefore our prayers should be more to be delivered from sin and if God hear no prayer else yet as to this we should say, ‘We beseech thee to hear us good Lord.’”**

We need to understand the evil of sin. It is worse than affliction, death, the devil, or even hell itself. As such we need to come to the point in our lives where we hate sin. This hatred of sin should serve as a wall of protection for us. This hatred of sin should hopefully keep us from being seduced by Satan’s lies. Our hatred of sin should hopefully lead us to stay as far away from it as possible.

Most of us here I believe have heard Fred Goldman expressing his feelings on television about O.J. Simpson. For those of you who may not readily recognize that name he was Ron Goldman’s father. Let me ask you a question. How likely would it be that Fred Goldman would invite O.J. Simpson over to his house for a friendly chat or for a meal? ..... Why would that be? He would not do it because it appears that he hates O.J, whether it is right or wrong for him to harbor such hatred and animosity toward O.J. is not the point. The point is that it appears that he in fact harbors extreme hostility toward him and wants nothing to do with him.

This is what we want to experience in respect to sin. We want to harbor such animosity and hatred toward sin or evil that we would want to have nothing to do with it . This is what Peter is seeking to nurture within us in **1 Pet. 4:1-6**. He wants us to have such a negative view of sin that as **V. 2** states we will want **“to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.”** **V. 2** is the key verse in this section of scripture. All that Peter is saying to us in **VV. 1-6** is being said that this particular purpose is realized.

This morning we will begin to examine **1 Pet. 4:1-6**. Hopefully these verses will stir up within us a very healthy hatred of sin and so much so that we will have a deep burning desire to stay far away from it.

## *Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript*

Let us read **1 Pet. 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, (2) 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. (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, carousals, drinking parties and abominable idolatries. (4) And in all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excess of dissipation, and they malign you; (5) but they shall give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. (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.**”

In these verses we will consider the impact of sin on three different groups of people. Hopefully as we consider that impact you will find a growing rage within you toward sin. A rage so intense that it will make it extremely difficult for Satan to cause you to see sin as anything else but something to be hated.

### THE IMPACT OF SIN UPON JESUS

This last week in the news a man was reported to have been acquitted by a jury of beating a dog to death with a baseball bat. The dog that was killed had attacked this man’s young son and had mauled him pretty badly. When the father found out what had happened he went over to where the dog was being kept and beat the dog to death with the bat. The man was acquitted, not because he had not done the act, but rather because the jury could understand the father’s rage. When someone we love suffers at the hand of another certainly we are tempted to anger or to even hate.

This is something that we should be able to understand but you may say, “Yes, I can appreciate this, but I never have had someone I love abused, tortured or killed so this really is only theoretical for me.” But this is not so. If you are here this morning and are a professing Christian, someone whom you love has been abused, tortured, and killed. And who is that? Christ.

Let us look at **V. 1** “**Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh .....**” Do you love Him? Hopefully there is no one here this morning that does not have a conscious sense of personal affection for Jesus. How could we not? How could we be indifferent to the very one who loved us and gave himself for us. Certainly those to whom Peter was writing loved Him. In **1 Pet. 1:8** Peter tells his readers, “**And though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory.**” Hopefully Peter could say the very same thing about us.

If we truly in fact love Jesus let us search out the root cause of His suffering and direct our rage toward it. Isn’t this a reasonable response, an understandable response.

Is there any clue in the passage we just read as to the root cause of Christ’s suffering? I believe there is. Let us again look at the verse. What is the very first word? “**Therefore.**” Peter is basing his present statement concerning Christ’s suffering on something that came before. And what was that?

## *Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript*

Let us for a moment go back to **V. 18** and see exactly what Peter had said concerning the suffering of Christ in His flesh. It reads, **“For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust in order that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.”** Jesus died for sins. Sin was the root cause of Christ’s suffering. Certainly Pontius Pilate gave permission for Christ to be executed. And certainly it was the Jews who were crying out that he would be crucified, but none of this would have taken place if sin had not entered into this world and taken us prisoner.

If we love Jesus and understand that sin was the root cause of his suffering it should cause us therefore to be angry with sin and since we cannot beat it to death, as the man did the dog who had mauled his son, at least we should have a very strong desire to have nothing to do with it.

When we are being tempted to indulge ourselves in some kind of sinful behavior or attitude remember that it was sin that was ultimately responsible for Christ being arrested, beaten, spit upon, mocked and finally crucified. May these thoughts stir up so much hatred of sin within us that we would turn our backs upon it and forsake it..... WHO ELSE HAS SIN IMPACTED?

### THE IMPACT OF SIN ON CHRISTIANS

Not only did sin impact Jesus in His past sufferings, but it has also impacted Christians in the here and now. Look again at **V. 1** it says, **“Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same purpose.”** Notice the words **“arm yourselves.”** When you read these words what image comes to your minds? Isn’t it one of a soldier equipping themselves for battle? And what are we arming ourselves against? We are arming ourselves against sin. This is clear from **V.2. WHY SHOULD WE HATE SIN? IT IS OUR ENEMY AND IT IS SEEKING TO ROB US OF THE ABUNDANT LIFE CHRIST HAS PROMISED TO US. IF YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED ANYTHING LESS THAN ABUNDANT LIVING THIS PAST WEEK IT WASN’T BECAUSE OF YOUR LACK OF MONEY OR RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, NOR WAS IT BECAUSE YOUR WIFE OR HUSBAND DIDN’T TREAT YOU AS WELL AS YOU WOULD HAVE LIKED. THE REASON WHY YOU MAY HAVE NOT ENJOYED THE ABUNDANT LIFE THIS PAST WEEK THAT CHRIST HAS PROMISED WAS FOR ONE REASON AND ONLY ONE REASON AND THAT WAS BECAUSE YOUR SIN ROBBED YOU OF THAT EXPERIENCE.**

Sin would have us filled with hate rather than love, sin would have us filled with despair rather than joy, sin would have us filled with anxiety rather than peace, sin would have us filled with boredom rather than purpose, sin would have us filled with a grumbling and complaining spirit rather than a thankful spirit, sin would have us forfeit all that is truly good and settle for the off scourings of the world. Sin is our enemy and we must hate it.

If we are going to be successful against this enemy Peter tells us that we must arm ourselves. What does Peter tell us to arm ourselves with? Let us again go back to **V. 1**, **“Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh arm yourselves with the same purpose.”** When we arm ourselves with the same purpose as Christ we are in effect purposing ourselves to suffer in the flesh. What does this mean? We must first of all understand what Peter specifically has in mind when he talks of Jesus having suffered in the flesh.

## *Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript*

And in order to do this because of the word “**therefore**” we must go back again to **V. 18**. How had Jesus “**suffered in the flesh?**” It tells us in **V. 18** that he had “**been put to death in the flesh.**” “Suffered” in V. 1 therefore is primarily speaking of what? Christ’s death. Does this mean that we should purpose to kill ourselves? Of course not. We have not been called to present ourselves a dead sacrifice but rather a living sacrifice. If this is so then how can we purpose to experience death while still alive?

In **Luke 9:51** it tells us that Jesus “**set his face resolutely to go to Jerusalem.**” What did he know would happen to Him in Jerusalem? He knew that he was going to die. And yet though he knew this he did not waiver from doing the will of God.

We need to have the same intention or purpose. We must share with Christ the purposed intention that no matter what the cost of obedience might be, even if that would be our death we must be willing to pay it. This is exactly what Peter is saying here.

It is not uncommon for men to be fearful of death. But certainly this should not be so for Christians. In fact quite the opposite. Christians should not fear death, but in fact welcome it! Wasn’t this true of Paul. Remember **Phil. 1:21**, what did Paul say? “**For me to live is Christ and to die is gain.**” Have you come to this point in your life?

But you may say, why should Christians look at death as gain? One of the reasons why this would be so is given to us at the end of **V. 1** “**.... arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin.**” Peter’s point is very simple dead people do not sin.

What a wonderful expectation. All through our lives we must arm ourselves in order to battle sin, but there is a day coming when that war will end. There is a day coming when we will be able to enter into our eternal rest free from sin and it’s horrible consequences upon our lives. When will this glorious day be ours? **WHEN WE DIE.**

In death we triumph. Jesus died and triumphed over sin and so will we. **IF YOU HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO BACK IN TIME AND BE YOUNG AGAIN WOULD YOU WANT THAT? IF THE GOAL OF YOUR LIFE IS TO BE FREE OF SIN THIS IS CERTAINLY SOMETHING YOU WOULD NOT CHOOSE. I HAVE NO DESIRE TO GO BACKWARDS BUT ONLY FORWARDS AND I PRAY THAT YOU MIGHT SHARE THIS DESIRE WITH ME.**

Why would it be so important for Peter to help his readers look at death in more positive terms? His readers were being persecuted and the possibility of dying for the cause of Christ was very real. If they were then they would be able to go through their persecutions very much like the Apostle Paul. Let us read **2 Cor. 4:7-12**, “**But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing greatness of the power may be of God and not from ourselves; (8) we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; (9) persecuted, but not forsaken, struck down but not destroyed; (10) always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.**”

## *Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript*

**(11) For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. (12) So death works in us, but life in you. “Paul was continually being faced with death but he was ready. In 2 Tim. 4:7-8 “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith (8) in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness; which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.”**

But arming ourselves with the purposed intention that no matter what the cost of obedience might be, even if that would be our death, does not simply allow us to share bold witness such as it did Paul but it also dramatically impacts all of our behavior in very positive ways which we will see next week as we begin to examine V. 2.

### CONCLUSION

WE NEED TO HATE SIN. AS WE HAVE A GROWING ANIMOSITY TOWARD SIN WE WILL WANT TO HAVE NOTHING TO WITH IT.

WHY SHOULD WE HATE SIN?

BECAUSE OF SIN'S IMPACT UPON CHRIST..... **“Therefore, since Christ suffered in the flesh.....”** We need to hate sin because sin is the root cause of all that Christ suffered on our behalf.

BECAUSE OF SINS IMPACT UPON US ..... **“.... arm yourselves also with the same purpose.”** We must hate sin because it is our enemy and is even now seeking to rob you of all the blessings that Christ is even now desiring to pour out upon you.