

## Questions for Reflection and Discussion

### 1 Peter 4:1-6

#### When Suffering Comes

##### Getting Started

What do you think is meant by the phrase that we are to be *in the world but not of the world*? What will be the result?

##### Background

Since 3:19-22 is a parenthesis, 4:1 ties back to 3:18. In ch. 4 Peter continues to elaborate on the theme of unjust suffering.

##### Digging In

1. **Read v. 1.** What do you think Peter means by *the same attitude*? What was Christ's attitude toward suffering?
2. How do we arm ourselves *with the same attitude*? What does that look like in practical terms?
3. **Read v. 2.** The person who endures suffering for Christ's sake shows that he is *done with sin* (v. 1). What implications flow from that radical reorientation? (v. 2)
4. **Read vv. 3-4.** How had Peter's readers behaved in the past?
5. What kind of response did they get when they stopped engaging in such behaviors?
6. **Read vv. 5-6.** How do Peter's words in vv. 5-6 give encouragement to believers who are going through unjust suffering? (Note: v. 6 is **not** saying that the gospel was preached to dead people. Rather, it was preached to people who were alive, who apparently became Christians, and later died.)



##### Getting Personal

- Would you say that you are prepared to endure suffering for doing good? How does this passage help us to get ready?
- Have you made a decisive break with the past? Are you *done with sin*? In what ways has your life changed?
- Since idolatry is giving to anybody or anything the devotion that belongs to God alone, in what ways does idolatry tend to creep into your life?