

RIVERSIDE ANGLICAN CHURCHES
QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION
1 Peter 4:1-6 – Living to please God

Read 1 Peter 4:1-6

1. Why did Jesus suffer in the flesh? When did it happen? What was it for? (cf 1:11, 2:21-24, 3:18)
2. Read verses 1-3 and 6 and discuss what Peter means by “the flesh”.
3. In verse 1, what does Peter mean by “whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin”? Do people with cancer never sin? Do persecuted Christians overseas never sin?
4. Suppose we live in a country where there is very little (and mostly minor) persecution for being a Christian: How can we know if we are obeying Peter’s instruction to “arm yourselves with the same way of thinking”?
5. In verse 2, what are human passions? Is God a kill-joy? (see also 1:14, 1:18 and 2:11).
6. What do the items in verse 3 have in common? What is it that makes them sin?
7. Is it still “joining in” when we’re just watching it on television or in a movie, or on the internet, or in a magazine? (Note: In Matthew 11:19 Jesus was accused of being a glutton because he spent time with gluttons – and Romans 1:32 tells us approval is as bad as committing sin. How do we know where the line is?)
8. How do your own patterns of life stand up against this instruction from Peter? Are there things you shouldn’t be joining in with? Why is it hard?
9. What is the risk to us if we don’t join in with the kind of sin described in verse 3? How do you prepare for this? (Hint: read verses 1 and 2 again) When was the last time your godly behaviour shocked someone?
10. What is the perspective that verse 5 adds? Is it intended as a warning or an encouragement?
11. According to verse 6, why was the gospel preached? How central is pleasing God in your own life and behaviours?