I Peter 4:1-6

 *The Right Mind*

Introduction

1. I Peter 4:1-6 Peter is encouraging these believers to not go back into what was past. Peter uses Christ’s example once again urging these believers to put sin to death and live the rest of their lives to the will of God.

2. How can I keep from sinning? Note: v. 1 *“same mind”...****OUTLOOK DETERMINES OUTCOME***. A believer must have the right attitude (mind set) if he is to live a right life.

How can I keep from sinning? **Outlook determines Outcome.**

**I. SUFFER RATHER THAN SIN 4:1a**

 ***A. Our Pattern*** *As Christ hath suffered*

**1.** I believe this is the third time in I Peter we are to be like Christ in our response and

 in our reactions (2:21; 3:18).

 **2.** *Who knew no sin…*He was God. He couldn’t sin. He never hurt anyone, yet

 because of His purity, separation, showing men their sinfulness…He suffered!

 *Don’t think it strange.*

**3.** It is called Peer Pressure. To not live like the rest of the world will cost you.

 *Any dead fish can float down stream. It takes a live one to swim upstream.*

***B. Our Provision*** *Rather suffered for us in the flesh*

**1.** He had to suffer because of our sin.

 **2.** Think of what sin did to Jesus. How can we enjoy that which made Jesus suffer

 and die on the cross?

 **3.** Sin is pure selfishness. It’s all about me and what I want. What about Him?

***C. Our Preparation*** *Arm yourselves likewise with the same mind*

**1.** *Arm* is a military term. It is one putting on his weapons. There were two words for

 this in the Greek. One is lightly armed. The other is heavily armed (that is the

 word here).

 **2.** *Same mind…*the battle begins in the mind! Our attitudes (mindset) are our

 weapons. A wrong attitude (mindset) will fail. This is the same attitudes and

 purpose of Christ.

 **3. I would rather suffer than sin!** “*The will of God is more important to me than*

 *my sinful desires.”*

How can I keep from sinning? **Outlook determines Outcome.**

**II. SURRENDER RATHER THAN SIN 4:1b-2**

1. ***The Procedure 1b*** *He that hath suffered in the flesh has broken with sin*
2. Since Christ died for us and as us (He died in our place).
3. *Ceased*…‘has broken with’ is a perfect tense…which means action occurred in the past and has lasting effects for the present and the future.

*\*Has released from sin* God is the implied agent.

*\**God has stopped mankind from living in continual sin.

*\**This is a work of God, not man!

**3.** (Romans 6:1ff) *Know…Reckon…Yield…Obey* I am no longer a servant of sin. I

 am alive unto God. I can walk in newness of life!!

***B. The Purpose 2a***

 *As a result…That he should no longer live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of*

 *men*

1. At salvation the potential and power of sin is broken. **There is no reason for any Christian to be bound by sin…any sin!!**
2. Christ has set us free. We are identified with Him!!
3. ***The Product*  *2b*** *Lusts of men, but to the will of God*
4. I choose. I surrender to His will and not my sinful desires. *The will of God* is to protect us…to provide for us. **Set us free!!!**
5. If we do the will of God we will invest in that which is lasting and satisfying. As we give in to strong desires (the joy and pleasure for the moment) we waste our time and will regret it later.
6. *“I know best.”* Look around. Learn from the mistakes and choices of others! *Surrender to Me.* Look at those who have! What have been the results?!
7. **The will of God is always a matter of choice and never emotions!**

How can I keep from sinning? **Outlook determines Outcome.**

**III. SACRIFICE RATHER THAN SIN 4:3-4** (Ephesians 5:6, 7)

 If a person makes a profession of faith and continues to live in sin, I question his or her

 salvation. If you can sin and it not bother you…you are an illegitimate son and not a true

 son. I am not talking sinless perfection. I am talking about a changed life. If there is no

 change, is there any salvation??

 ***A. Sacrifice Our Will 3a*** *Will of the Gentiles*

**1.** The *will of the Gentiles* is the will of the unsaved world. This is what they were

 before Christ. We sometime forget the bondage of sin and remember only the

 passing pleasure of sin.

 **2.** Such sinful living that occurred before salvation should not be given further

opportunity. **Don’t open the door…a lion awaits!**

1. Sacrifice involves my will…again…I choose!!
2. **As Christians we choose on what level of spiritual life we will live.** *In times past* The course is done. It is an accomplished fact! Everything in the old life which is not in accord with the Word of God should be outlawed in our new life!!

 ***B. Sacrifice Our Walk 3b***

**1.** Six sins of the past are mentioned: *lasciviousness (unchaste handling), lusts*

 *(sexual freedom), drinking to excess, wild parties, idolatries (wrong worship).*

1. You can’t let the lost world determine your lifestyle. Watch who you hang with.
2. On the inside of every person are two dogs…a vicious dog and a friendly dog. Which one wins? The one you feed.

 ***C. Sacrifice Our Way 4***

**1.** The lost crowd doesn’t understand (*strange*) that you don’t run with them to the

 same excess.

 **2.** Two words describe the behavior of the lost:

 \**Run…*they must be doing something to be happy and they are never satisfied.

 \**Excess* means to overflow or pour over. They always want more of whatever

 they are doing. Diminishing returns…more…more…more recreational

 drinking…drugs…until you have addiction.

1. *They heap abuse on you…*insult…slander. To them the Christian is the object of scorn, ridicule and laughter. You understand them (you’ve been there). They don’t understand you!
2. The unsaved do not understand why the difference. To them it is *strange.* They don’t think it’s strange to vomit beside the curb…have a hangover…destroy th**e**ir family…ruin their lives running from one sin to another. Let Jesus come in…the person no longer cheats…doesn’t watch or read porn…loves their family…goes to church and reads the Bible and his friends think that is *strange.* He or she has lost their mind!!

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**IV. STAND RATHER THAN SIN 4:5-6**

 ***One day we will give an account!***

***A. An Encouragement 5***

**1.** Those who scorn are the unbelievers.

 **2.** These are sure to face the judgment of God. In this life I will determine where and

 how I will spend eternity.

 **\****In this life…*sin has a price tag. The debt may not come due by Friday.

 \**Dead* They will appear at the Great White Throne (Rev. 20:11-15)

 **3. They may judge you now, but one day God will judge!**

 ***B. An Enlightenment 6*** (to the Christian)

 **1.** Talk about suffering!!!

 **2.** Peter reminds his readers of Christians who have been martyred for their faith.

 They were falsely judged by men and are now in the presence of God. There they

 receive their true judgment…their true value.

1. We must live as one who will one day stand before Jesus. We must *fear God (stand in awe of God) not man! In the flesh…*human evaluation (which is usually wrong) *In the Spirit (*His evaluation…which is always right and true)

**OUTLOOK DETERMINES OUTCOME.**

 ***Pay Day Someday!***