

## The Gospel in a Changing America

### Where Does the Church Fit?

#### 1 Peter

And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. - 1 Peter 5:1

The church's response to a changing America is to remain faithful to Jesus whatever the cost.

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it." - Luke 9:23-24

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you. - 1 Peter 1:1-2

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials. - 1 Peter 1:3-6

Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. - 1 Peter 1:13

The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. - 1 Peter 4:7

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. - 1 Peter 5:8

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. - 1 Peter 2:9-10

For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.  
- 1 Peter 2:19

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example,  
so that you might follow in his steps. - 1 Peter 2:21

But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them,  
nor be troubled,

but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to  
anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet, do it with gentleness and  
respect. - 1 Peter 3:14-15

Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking  
- 1 Peter 4:1

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though  
something strange were happening to you.

But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when  
his glory is revealed. - 1 Peter 4:12-13

And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal  
glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. - 1 Peter 5:1

But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.

Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my  
Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish in order that I  
may gain Christ. - Philippians 3:7-8

The church's response to a changing America is to remain faithful to Jesus whatever the cost.

The day of casual Christianity is over.

We have to be serious and intentional about what comes next.

Get our own house in order

For it is time for judgment to begin in the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will  
be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? - 1 Peter 4:17

The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of  
your prayers. Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of

sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: - 1 Peter 4:7-10

The church is no longer a part of mainstream America.