

Lesson Notes: 1 Peter 3:18-4:6 (NIV based)
(additional lesson option)

TITLE: Body In Contrast To Spirit

INTRO: This lesson will take a different approach: finding, listing, and analyzing contrasts between living by the body (or flesh) and living by the spirit. (v.4:6)

READ: 1 Peter 3:18-4:6, with vv.3:13-14,17 for context

Look for contrasts between body and spirit, one verse at a time, and then discuss it.
(Note: The type characters < > are to mean "in contrast to".)

v.3:18 -- body - Christ sacrificed unto death < > spirit - so that we might be alive by the Spirit.

v.3:21 -- body - baptism is not removal of dirt < > spirit - baptism is an action of the spirit of a good conscience.

vv.3:21-22 -- body - Christ's bodily resurrection < > spirit - brings our spirit reuniting with our body and eternal life in heaven.

v.4:1 -- body - choose to suffer < > spirit - attitude of Christ - done with sin.

v.4:2 -- body - not living evil desires < > spirit - living righteous desires - will of God.

vv.4:3,6 -- body - pagans live to satisfy evil desires in the body < > spirit - believers live to satisfy God by the spirit.

vv.4:3-4 -- body - pagans "choose" and enjoy doing evil in the body < > spirit - they "think" its normal and thereupon condemn righteousness.

IMPLIED:

vv.4:3,1 -- body - behaves naturally and continues in that < > spirit - behaves contrary to naturally and arms for change.

vv.4:3,4,5 -- body - live by only what is seen and/or felt < > spirit - live by what is believed, despite what is seen and/or felt.

v.4:4 -- body - further indulging in wickedness < > spirit - abstinence from wickedness.

v.4:4 -- body - blending in with the world and enjoying camaraderie with others who are doing the same < > spirit - different than most everyone and suffering of scorn.

vv.4:4,3 -- body - disregards God < > spirit - obeys God.

vv. 4:4,14 -- body - follows the philosophy that choosing a life that produces suffering only leads to more suffering < > spirit - follows the philosophy that choosing a life that produces suffering leads to an overabundance of blessing and joy in the midst of suffering.

v.4:5 -- body - believes he is unaccountable and thereupon engages in wickedness < > spirit - believes he is accountable and thereupon engages in righteousness.

vv.4:5,1 -- body - ignores the future (which is foolish) < > spirit - arms and prepares for the future (which is wisdom).

vv.4:4,5,13 -- body - self-gratification (indulgence) in the present produces reduced suffering in the present but horrific suffering in the eternal future < > spirit - self-denial (abstinence) in the present produces increased suffering in the present but overflowing joy in the eternal future.

v.4:6 -- body - pagans will receive eternal punishment according to the evil they did in regard to the body < > spirit - believers will receive eternal reward for the righteousness they did in regard to the spirit.

vv.4:4,6 -- body - fleshly advice leads to death < > spirit - spiritual advice (the gospel) leads to life.

vv.4:4,6 -- body - man's opinion and approval < > spirit - God's opinion and approval.

v.4:6 -- body - men will be judged in regard to the body < > spirit - no condemnation, and freedom in the spirit for the righteous, who will "live according to God in regard to the spirit".

BIG IDEA: Suffering for righteousness looks beyond the present to future joy and blessings. As we choose to pursue righteousness, we will endure suffering while in the body but we can gain relief in the spirit through God's Spirit.

IMPORTANT SUB-POINTS: What are some other important points God is making here in these verses?

APPLICATIONS: What applications can you think of for how we should respond to the concepts in these verses?

PERSONALIZED APPLICATIONS: From these verses, what do you think God wants you to learn, or know, or remember, or put into effect in your life? How are you going to do that?

Works Cited:

Bible. "The Holy Bible: New International Version." *The Bible Library CD-ROM*. Oklahoma City, OK: Ellis Enterprises, 1988.

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