

“Arm yourselves with the Mind of Christ, Part 2” (1 Peter 4:1–4)
GCC, 12/23/18, Morning Worship

Introduction--Three litmus tests for the mind of Christ in the Christian

- I. **Litmus Test #1: Suffering demonstrates that you’ve made a break with sin (4:1–2)**
- A. *Who has suffered in the flesh and ceased from sin? Christ or the Believer?*
 - B. *What does it mean that she has ceased from sin?*
 - 1. Does not mean that she has attained sinless perfection
 - 2. *A commitment to suffering shows that there has been a break with sin if in the face of potential suffering for Christ’s sake, you determine to be faithful to the revealed will of God and do what is right, even though that means you will suffer consequences for it.*
 - C. *Application of the principle: What does this mean for you?*
 - 1. To whom are you really a slave? (4:2)
 - a. The dominion of sin is different than the battle with sin. Don’t ask, “do I still do this or that? Rather, ask two questions:
 - i. Is this sin the prevailing disposition of my life? That is, does it characterize me?
 - ii. When I do fall into this sin, do I hate it, love it, or am I indifferent to it?
 - 2. Are you suffering for Christ?
 - 3. Do you compromise your convictions to avoid suffering?
- II. **Litmus Test #2: There is a clear break from your past life (4:3)**
- A. The time of giving yourself over fully to your passions is filled up.
 - B. When you look at this list from the other side of Calvary where, by God’s grace you now stand, do these things look detestable to you?
 - C. Do you use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh? (Gal 5:13)
 - D. Do not let your good be spoken of as evil.
- III. **Litmus Test #3: Your new life in Christ surprises non-believers and invites scorn (4:4)**
- A. How do unbelievers respond to you?
 - B. Surprise?
 - C. Maligning (John 15:18–21)?

Conclusion: *What does these litmus tests say about the mind of Christ in you?*