

“ARM YOURSELVES”

1 Peter 4:1-11

Arm Yourself With ...

A Saintly Character – Verses 1-3

- One with a mind willing to suffer for the cause of Christ – verse 1
 - 1 Peter 3:13-14 – “suffer for righteousness sake”
- One dedicated to doing God’s will and who no longer obeys the will of the Gentiles – verses 2-3
 - cf. 1 John 2:17 – “... the world is passing away”

Arm Yourself With ...

A Saintly Character – Verses 4-6

- One who does not seek to be popular among men but seeks to be approved by God – verse 4
 - Matthew 6:1-4 – “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people ... your Father who sees in secret will reward you”
- One who is constantly aware of the coming judgment of God – verses 5-6
 - Acts 10:42-43 – “... he is the one appointed by God to be judge ...”

Arm Yourself With ...

A Sober Mind – Verse 7

- Verse 7 – “... be self-controlled and **sober-minded**”
 - “to be of sound mind, i.e. sane, (figuratively) moderate: – be in right, be sober (minded), soberly” (Strong)
 - “of sound mind” – ASV
 - “be of sound judgment” – NASV
 - “be serious” – NKJV
 - “clear minded” – NIV
 - “keep sane” – RSV
- Luke 8:26-35 – “... in his right mind”
- Romans 12:1-3 – “... think with sober judgment”

Arm Yourself With ...

A Sober Mind – Verse 7

- A mind to pray and not panic in fear
 - Philippians 4:4-8 – “by prayer and supplication”
 - Philippians 1:28-29 – “not frightened in anything”
- A mind that keeps emotions in control when under pressure
 - This keeps zeal in its proper focus
 - Romans 10:1-4 – “not according to knowledge”
 - This prevents uncontrolled anger and fear
 - Ephesians 4:26 – “Be angry and do not sin”
 - Matthew 10:28 – “... do not fear those ...”
 - Hebrews 13:6 – “The Lord is my helper”

Arm Yourself With ...

A Sober Mind – Verse 7

- A mind that refrains from rashness
 - Moses acted rashly by striking the rock
 - Numbers 20:10-12 – “... struck the rock ...”
 - Peter acted rashly by using his sword to cut off the ear of the high priest’s servant, Malchus
 - John 18:10-11 – “shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?”

Arm Yourselves With ...

Fervent Love – Verse 8

- A love that is active and strong enough to cover sin
 - Proverbs 17:9 – “... seeks love ... separates close friends”
 - James 5:19-20 – “will save his soul from death”
- A love strong enough to obey God in all things
 - I John 5:1-3 – “... his commandments are not burdensome
- A love that is strong enough to bind brethren together in perfection
 - Colossians 2:1-2 – “being knit together in love”
 - Colossians 3:12-14 – “above all these put on love”

Arm Yourselves With ...

Sincere service – Verses 9-10

- Serving, or being hospitable to, each other helps anytime, especially in a time of need
 - Romans 12:12-13 – “... seek to show hospitality”
- Any service helps the recipient, sincere service also benefits the provider
 - Hospitality not only helps others – it brings blessings to those who provide it
 - Hebrews 13:2 – “entertained angels unawares”
- When we show hospitality, we encourage the benefit of fellowship with the brethren we serve

Arm Yourselves With ...

Scriptural Authority – Verse 11

- To speak the “oracles of God” is to speak what has been revealed by God
 - cf. Deuteronomy 29:29 – “... the things that are revealed belong to us ...”
- We must speak by command, example, or necessary inference
- The “oracles of God” must be respected
 - Colossians 3:16-17 – “... in the name of the Lord ...”
 - II Timothy 3:16-17 – “equipped for every good work”
 - II Peter 1:3-4 – “... all things that pertain to life ...”
 - Jude 3 – “... contend for the faith ...”

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A Saintly Character – Verses 1-6

A Sober Mind – Verse 7

Fervent Love – Verse 8

Sincere Service – Verses 9-10

Scriptural Authority – Verse 11

To Be Properly Armed You Must

Hear the Word of God

- James 1:21 – “... receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”

Believe the Gospel message about Jesus

- I John 3:23-24 – “that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ”

Repent of your sins

- Acts 3:19 – “Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out”

To Be Properly Armed You Must

Confess that Jesus is the Son of God

- Romans 10:9-10 – “... with the mouth one confesses and is saved”

Be immersed in water

- Acts 2:38 – “Repent and be baptized every one of you ...”

Remain faithful

- Hebrews 3:12-14 – “... if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end”