

**Living a Fulfilling Life**  
**Series: 1 Peter**  
**August 6, 2017      Pastor Bill Bump**

Peter proclaims that the key to living the most fulfilling life is self-denial.

In Psalm 90, Moses stated that he desired to live his life in faithfulness to God.

Psalm 90:12, 14-15 <sup>12</sup> *Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom...* <sup>14</sup> *Satisfy us each morning with your unfailing love, so we may sing for joy to the end of our lives.* <sup>15</sup> *Give us gladness in proportion to our former misery! Replace the evil years with good.*

Moses knew that each person would have to appear before God and give an account of how they had lived.

Peter shares three reasons for living in self-denial:

1. To experience life the way God intends

1 Peter 4:1-2 <sup>1</sup> *So then, since Christ suffered physical pain, you must arm yourselves with the same attitude he had, and be ready to suffer, too. For if you have suffered physically for Christ, you have finished with sin.* <sup>2</sup> *You won't spend the rest of your lives chasing your own desires, but you will be anxious to do the will of God.*

The way to experience life to the fullest is to arm ourselves with the attitude of Jesus so we will seek to avoid sin.

1 Peter 4:1-2 (The Message) *Since Jesus went through everything you're going through and more, learn to think like him. Think of your sufferings as a weaning from that old sinful habit of always expecting to get your own way. Then you'll be able to live out your days free to pursue what God wants instead of being tyrannized by what you want.*

1 Thessalonians 5:22 *Stay away from every kind of evil.*

Definition of self-denial: Not my will, Jesus, but thy will be done.

Matthew 16:24-25 <sup>24</sup> *Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.* <sup>25</sup> *If you*

*try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it."*

## 2. To experience eternity the way God intends

1 Peter 4:3-5 <sup>3</sup> *You have had enough in the past of the evil things that godless people enjoy—their immorality and lust, their feasting and drunkenness and wild parties, and their terrible worship of idols.*

<sup>4</sup> *Of course, your former friends are surprised when you no longer plunge into the flood of wild and destructive things they do. So they slander you.* <sup>5</sup> *But remember that they will have to face God, who stands ready to judge everyone, both the living and the dead.*

1 Peter 4:3-5 (The Message) *You've already put in your time in that God-ignorant way of life, partying night after night, a drunken and profligate life. Now it's time to be done with it for good. Of course, your old friends don't understand why you don't join in with the old gang anymore. But you don't have to give an account to them. They're the ones who will be called on the carpet—and before God himself.*

Peter desires that we not look back wistfully at our life before Jesus.

Peter drives home the reality for those who have accepted Jesus.

1 Peter 4:6-7 <sup>6</sup> *That is why the Good News was preached to those who are now dead—so although they were destined to die like all people, they now live forever with God in the Spirit.*

<sup>7</sup> *The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore, be earnest and disciplined in your prayers.*

Hebrews 9:27 *And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment...*

## 3. To experience community the way God intends

1 Peter 4:8-11 <sup>8</sup> *Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins.* <sup>9</sup> *Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay.*

<sup>10</sup> *God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.* <sup>11</sup> *Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God*

*himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.*

The community we experience should be:

- A. A loving community
- B. A forgiving community
- C. A welcoming community
- D. A serving community
- E. A gifted community

### Conclusion

Our community is to be much more about cooperation and less about competition, more about self-denial and less about self-promotion.

Jesus invites us to deny our self—take up our cross and follow Him.