

Endgame

1 Peter :4:7-12

Bethany Assembly of God

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- What is an “endgame”?

end-game | \ ˈen(d)-ɪgām \

Definition of endgame

: the stage of a chess game after major reduction of forces

also : the final stage of some action or process

- How would you change if you knew that we were living in the final stage of God’s plan of redemption? How would you live differently if you knew when Jesus would return?
- What prevents you from living that way now?
- How could remembering that God has placed you here and equipped you to accomplish His endgame in the power of the Holy Spirit change your life?

Big Idea: You can participate in God’s endgame.

Here are three priorities for participating in God’s endgame.

1. You must live seriously.

- Read 1 Peter 4:7.
- What do you think it means to be “sober-minded and self-controlled”?
- Read the list of vices at 1 Peter 4:3. Does this help you understand what “sober-minded and self-controlled” might be?
- In addition to the sins listed in 1 Peter 4:3, what are some other indicators the Bible gives us that we aren’t taking life and God’s plan seriously?
- Is living seriously just about avoiding certain sins or obvious immorality? What else does serious living in light of God’s plan include?

- Why would Peter say living seriously is “for the sake of your prayers”?

Being sober minded and self-controlled means a prayer life of continued connection with God in which, through all the circumstances of your life and the things you witness in the world, you are praying, “Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” because you recognize we’re in the endgame now.

- In what are you indulging that keeps you from living seriously in God’s endgame?

2. You must love earnestly.

- Read 1 Peter 4:8-9.
- Why is loving fellow Christians so important that it would make it into the priority list for God’s endgame?
- Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 to get a better idea of what God’s love is like.
- With that in mind, what does it mean to love earnestly?
- How does love like this cover a multitude of sins? Is Peter telling us to hide sin? Can your love atone for people’s sins like Jesus’ blood?
- Read Proverbs 10:12 to get a better idea of what Peter meant.

Love covers a multitude of sins because love stops a multitude of sins in their tracks. It cuts off the power of sin to divide and distract God’s people from their purpose in God’s endgame. A church constantly offended at one another cannot be a church constantly engaged in God’s mission.

- One specific way to love fellow Christians is to be hospitable? How can you show hospitality to another believer this week, even under our current Coronavirus restrictions?

3. You must leverage God’s gifts faithfully.

- Read 1 Peter 4:10-12.

Regardless of age, background, culture, or the value the world doesn’t place on you, you are a gifted person.

- How can you think biblically about the gifts that God has given you?
- Have you ever considered that God is wise and powerful enough that He created you, gifted you, and placed you here to fulfill a specific role in His endgame?
- What are the pitfalls of pride that we need to avoid when it comes to God's gifts?
- How can you be more serious about using your gifts for the glory of God as a part of His endgame?

Conclusion

If you were wondering, God's endgame is that He may be glorified through Jesus Christ. At Bethany, we see ourselves participating in that mission and express it this way: God's Glory. Good News. Transformed Lives. You can participate in God's endgame and in the mission of the church by living seriously, loving earnestly, and leveraging your gifts faithfully! How will you participate in God's endgame today?