

## **1 Peter 4:12-19: Suffer in a way that produces friction.**

**\*FRICTION?! As a result of suffering leads to good- to possible salvation and joy within us**

The theme of suffering is incredibly important for us because it points directly to the suffering of Christ, and accentuates his Spirit.

Last week we saw that godly living WILL lead to suffering. It creates \*friction\* with the world; so our lives should be intrinsically different.

Scientific definition of friction: surface resistance to relative motion, as of a body sliding or rolling.

Here, in this world, our “motion” as Christ followers interferes with sin’s flow...thus creating FRICTION with the world...exactly the type of living we are called to embrace in our suffering.

Many may endure suffering. But only those in Christ may be able to TRULY rejoice in and through suffering.

The key things that DISTINGUISH our suffering (from this passage):

**We ought not to “be surprised”** *verse 12*

This was written around the time Nero began a persecution campaign against Christians in Rome.

Every warning Peter gives applies to EVERY believer since. Scripture is not intended to be restricted by time but rather for believers as a whole – so it DIRECTLY applies to us.

Note “FIERY” trial, and yet we live in it/through it without surprise, why? ...because we should EXPECT persecution.

If we are truly living for Christ we WILL, undoubtedly, suffer offense (2 Timothy 3:12-14); therefore, we don’t have a reason to question God as to why it’s happening. Remember, following Christ creates friction with world!

**In our suffering there is REJOICING** *Verse 13*

“REJOICE.” Suffering and Rejoicing? Typically they don’t go hand in hand. But here they do, intentionally.

The idea seems paradoxical: believer can rest assuredly, because of the Holy Spirit, a life that is contradictory to world. But rather issues hope in the midst of something that may otherwise (in the world’s terms) break us.

In this way, the SPIRIT allows believers to gain peace in the midst of turmoil. This is counter-cultural. The world cannot explain this phenomenon

We know that God instructs us to take joy in our suffering. BUT WHY SHOULD WE?? It is incredibly important to seek WHY God instructs us as He does....not only does it help us to understand his commands more, but it helps us to understand HIM more.

1. TO SHOW Christ - Suffering in itself doesn't necessarily demonstrate the gospel...suffering with rejoicing does. Why? It is outside of normal. The world says, dwell in a pity party!
2. To OBEY Christ - If we are FULFILLED by the gospel of Christ Jesus then WE will strive to FULFILL His commands (conviction!) This is a challenge for us in our personal lives.
3. To BECOME more LIKE CHRIST. (see verse 14)

#### *Verse 14*

This verse says by being insulted for the name of Christ we are BLESSED since we have the Spirit of God already in us. Just like Jesus was insulted but endured to the point of death because "the Spirit of glory and of God rested upon [Him!]" we will endure suffering. We are called to do the same because that Spirit lives in us/ "rests upon" us too

#### **We do not suffer in SHAME** *Verses 15-16*

Peter list these; murderer, thief, evildoer, troublemaker... interesting Peter would list these things when speaking to the church.

The same fleshly desires that make us commit these seemingly massive sins derive from the same desires of the flesh that we see in all other, more "common," more INTERNAL sins.

Peter was intentional in doing this. These were things that the church that Peter was speaking to was actually being accused for. Because as believers we MUST be certain that our suffering does not become accounted to sin but rather simply to the fact that we are living in Christ.

Philippians 3:18-20 Those whose suffering leads to destruction are called "enemies of the cross of Christ;" but as Christ-followers, our suffering draws us to await our Savior – BIG difference.

IF you suffer as a Christian, you do not have the same SHAME that comes to those who suffer as so-called enemies of the cross (v.16).

Suffering for us is not brought upon ourselves as the fortune of our own flesh and sin, but WE SUFFER FOR A FAR GREATER PURPOSE THAN OURSELVES.

Peter literally says; DO NOT BE ASHAMED for suffering as a Christian, but what are we to do? We are to glorify God. Again, he brings it back to rejoicing

The key here is that suffering from our own flesh leads ultimately, to death; WHEREAS: Suffering in or for Christ, which is purposed suffering, leads to LIFE. This is a pretty good reason to rejoice and glorify God.

### *Verses 17-18*

Peter puts things into perspective. He asks how great the punishment may be for those who do not know Christ. The conclusion is that their suffering will be great.

Judgment begins with us (NIV) so what will become them? Can you imagine what will become of the suffering for unbelievers after you die? As believers we are rescued from these same eternal consequences only by the grace of God. Thus, we should let our suffering serve to purify us in our own judgment. Suffering in the world is not accounted to us as debt for our sin but rather to accent our faith in Christ

And by highlighting our faith through suffering, it is the ungodly and the sinner (PEOPLE WHO DON'T BELIEVE) that might come to Christ themselves, seeing as that ETERNAL HOPE and PEACE is derived during our suffering.

### *Verse 19*

The bottom line is that suffering is inevitable.

Why do we withstand it? To demonstrate, obey, and become like Christ.

How do we do it? By, as Peter says, ENTRUSTING our souls to Him (while we refrain from the suffering that results from sin), but rather, by clinging to and REJOICING in the suffering that we endure in Christ – knowing we suffer for a far greater purpose than ourselves.

This happens while doing good and following Christ's will. This involves the spiritual and physical aspects. You can't do spiritual without doing physical

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