

1 Peter 4:1-11

One Point: Even In Suffering, God Is In Control

1. If you could be any creature from folk legend, which one would you be (Bigfoot, Loch Ness Monster, Chupacabra, etc.)?
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Read v. 1-2

1. A big theme in Peter's letter is suffering and opposition. He talks about it six times in chapters one to three. What has God showed you in your life through suffering and opposition?
 2. How did Jesus face suffering and opposition and how can you practically model Him?
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Read v. 3-6

1. We saw in verses three and four that you should be able to distinguish a Christian from a non-Christian by their lifestyle. Why is it so important for our lives to look different than unbelievers? (*This doesn't mean we separate ourselves from unbelievers. We're called to reach them and do life with them. However, we're not called to participate in their sin.*)
 2. Scripture teaches that a godly life will face opposition. Have you faced opposition recently because of your faith in Christ or have you **not** faced opposition recently because of your fear of man? (*Usually, we fear man by doing what will make them happy with us, instead of fearing God by doing what will make Him happy with us.*)
 3. What can you do to help you with your fear of man? How can your church, friends or the BCM help?
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Read v. 7-11

1. How are you using your God-given gifts here in Tampa? Also, where else does God's Word address our gifts and how we use them?
 2. We're called to show hospitality to our brothers and sisters in Christ, yet many times we don't. Why don't you show hospitality to other believers you know?
 3. What things can you do practically within your church and the BCM to show hospitality?
 4. An aspect of fighting sin is being self-controlled. What steps can you take daily to help you stay self-controlled?
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What I will be talking about

The book of 1 Peter is filled with the theme of suffering and opposition. In chapter 4 we'll see how we are supposed to act while facing opposition, and we'll discuss the life we're called to live in community within our churches.