

“Everyday Life”

1 Peter 3:17 – 4:19

Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. ¹⁶ But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ.

1 Peter 3:15-16 (NLT)

Everyday life is full of joy and suffering.

Suffering for doing Good.

Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong!

¹⁸ *Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit.*

¹⁹ *So he went and preached to the spirits in prison - ²⁰ those who disobeyed God long ago when God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat. Only eight people were saved from drowning in that terrible flood. ²¹ And that water is a picture of baptism, which now saves you, not by removing dirt from your body, but as a response to God from a clean conscience. It is effective because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

²² *Now Christ has gone to heaven. He is seated in the place of honor next to God, and all the angels and authorities and powers accept his authority.*

1 Peter 3:17-22 (NLT)

Jesus suffered for us.

While suffering, live for God.

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. ² You won't spend the rest of your lives chasing

your own desires, but you will be anxious to do the will of God. ³ 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.

⁴ *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. ⁵ But remember that they will have to face God, who stands ready to judge everyone, both the living and the dead. ⁶ 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.*

⁷ *The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore, be earnest and disciplined in your prayers. ⁸ Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay.*

¹⁰ *God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. ¹¹ 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.*

1 Peter 4:1-11 (NLT)

Don't let suffering keep you from living.

Suffering for simply being a Christian.

¹² *Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you.*

¹³ *Instead, be very glad - for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world.*

¹⁴ *If you are insulted because you bear the name of Christ, you will be blessed, for the glorious Spirit of God rests upon you.*

¹⁵ *If you suffer, however, it must not be for murder, stealing, making trouble, or prying into other people's affairs. ¹⁶ But it is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. Praise God for the privilege of being called by his name! ¹⁷ For the time has come for judgment, and it must begin with God's household. And if*

judgment begins with us, what terrible fate awaits those who have never obeyed God's Good News? ¹⁸ And also,

*"If the righteous are barely saved,
what will happen to godless sinners?"*

*¹⁹ So if you are suffering in a manner that pleases God,
keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who
created you, for he will never fail you.*

1 Peter 4:12-19 (NLT)

God is at work in our suffering, and through our suffering.

SO WHAT?

Suffering is normal.

I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."

John 16:33 (NLT)

Will we respond with hope and grace in the midst of suffering?

*God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right,
for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.
"God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and
lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because
you are my followers.*

Matthew 5:10-11 (NLT)

Growth Group Questions

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. What is the worst physical pain you have ever experienced?

How long did that pain last?

2. Tell of a time of prolonged suffering in your life. How did you deal with it while you were suffering?

After that season of suffering, what did you learn or how were you changed because of it?

3. Read 1 Peter 3:17- 4:19 all the way through out loud. Pause for a minute of silence. Re-read the passage all the way through. Share what one thing stands out to you from the passage?

4. Re-read 1 Peter 4:4-5. Why is it so hard to break from our old ways when we choose to make Christ Lord of our life?

What 'former friends', or 'wild and destructive things' do you still struggle with?

5. Re-read 1 Peter 4: 14-16. Can you think of a time you were mocked or ridiculed simply for your faith as a Christian? What happened?

How did you respond?

6. Who in your group (or someone outside your group) is suffering right now? What can you do as a group to offer hope and grace to them this week?