

Sermon: Suffering as Christians

Text: [I Peter 4:12-19 ESV](#)

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Introduction: There is no positive, redemptive purpose for suffering outside our relationship with Christ. Or as a former teenager in my Youth Group (Alexus Shellhammer) once said: “Suffering people should turn to God and keep on doing faithful things.”

I. Suffering Should Not _____ Us (v. 12).

- A. Suffering is a _____ Christian experience.
- B. Suffering is the lot of _____.

II. Suffering Is Cause for _____ (vv. 13-16).

- A. Suffering is a form of _____ (koinonia).
- B. Suffering can be a _____.
- C. Suffering should not be because of sinful _____.
- D. Because of the _____ of Christ

III. Suffering Includes _____ (vv. 17-18)

- A. Judgment starts with the _____.
- B. Judgment will extend to those “_____.”

IV. Suffering Requires a Proper _____ (v. 19).

- A. Christians need to “_____.”
- B. Remain _____ in one’s commitment.

Conclusion: Suffering can destroy faith or build it. God gives us opportunities to both suffer and give Him glory by the way we respond. [I Peter 4:19 ESV](#) 19 Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

I Peter 4:12-19 ESV

Suffering as a Christian

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

13 But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory[a] and of God rests upon you. 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. 16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. 17 For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

18 And

“If the righteous is scarcely saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”[b]

19 Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

Footnotes:

[a] I Peter 4:14 Some manuscripts insert and of power

[b] I Peter 4:18 Greek where will the ungodly and sinner appear?