

## 1 Peter Series “Suffering Well”

1 Peter 3:8-22

October 17, 2021

1 Peter 3:8-17 (ESV)

**8** Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. **9** Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.

**10** For “Whoever desires to love life  
and see good days,

let him keep his tongue from evil  
and his lips from speaking deceit;

**11** let him turn away from evil and do good;  
let him seek peace and pursue it.

**12** For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,  
and his ears are open to their prayer.

But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

**13** Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? **14** But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, **15** but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, **16** having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. **17** For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

“Every Christian knew that sooner or later he might have to testify to his faith at the cost of his life.”

When we suffer, our response is to bless.

1 Peter 3:10-12

**10** For “Whoever desires to love life  
and see good days,

let him keep his tongue from evil  
and his lips from speaking deceit;

**11** let him turn away from evil and do good;  
let him seek peace and pursue it.

**12** For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,  
and his ears are open to their prayer.

But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

“All the way to heaven is heaven.”

Suffering is not the opposite of blessing.

Matt 5:11-12

**11** “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. **12** Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Isaiah 8:12-13

**12** “Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread. **13** But the Lord of hosts, him you shall honor as holy. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.

*Do we suffer for doing good?*

*When we do, do we do it with grace and joy?*

1 Peter 3:15

**15** but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

We aren't hopping that Jesus will return under the banner of fairness.

1 Peter 3:18-22

**18** For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, **19** in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, **20** because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. **21** Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, **22** who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

Baptism is an outward expression of a spiritual, inward appeal to God for cleansing. Baptism stands as a constant reminder that the worst suffering has been averted.

All angels, and authorities and powers have been “subjected” to Jesus.

### **Grow Group Discussion Questions**

- What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
- In what ways, large or small, have you experienced criticism or rejection for your faith or for doing good (vv. 13-14)?
- Read 1 Peter 3:17-22. Ordinarily we would say that it's better to suffer for doing evil than for doing good, because if you suffer for doing evil, you deserve it. Why does Peter reverse this assumption and say it is better to suffer for doing good?
- Are you currently dealing with a situations that feels heavy or hurtful? How do you walkout Peter's encouragement to “bless?” What would be difficult about applying blessing to this circumstance?

- In what ways does the final verses of 1 Peter 3 emphasize the ultimate victory of God in Christ?
- How do these verses affect your understanding of the significance of baptism?
- Use v.8 to guide closing prayers for your Grow Group. “Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.”