

Suffering for Doing Right



1 Pt. 3:8 - 22

Suffering for doing right is spoken of frequently in the Word of God.

2 Tm. 3:12, “everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”

Jn. 15:20, “remember that words I spoke to you: ‘No servant is greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.”

Jesus warned his disciples that many of them would suffer persecution for his sake.

- **Mt. 5:10**, “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
- **Jn. 21:18-19**, Jesus told Peter that he would die by crucifixion.

I. Preparing: For the Onslaught



1 Pt. 3:8-9, “Finally, all *of you be* of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, *be* tenderhearted, *be* courteous; ⁹ not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.”

**First, they needed to be united
and living in harmony.**

The first century church had a sense of unity and fellowship due to the degree of persecution against them first from the Jews then from the Romans.

Second, they needed to be sympathetic

Sympathy is the ability to step outside one's own concerns in order to identify with and share the pains of another.

- It is an act of love and selflessness.

Third, they needed to love as brothers

Born again into the family of God, every believer is expected to have a special relationship with every other.

Fourth, they needed to be compassionate

The heart of compassion is one able to be touched by the needs of people around him; it is sensitive to the fact that others are carrying burdens

Fifth, they needed to become humble

Humility grows out of one's sense of dependence upon God.

The Christian is not self-sufficient;
his sufficiency is in Christ.

Sixth, they needed to be Forgiving

When someone is suffering at the hands of another, the natural tendency is to strike back; if weakness keeps him from striking back, he can at least show his hatred and defiance.

Christian's must not yield to this kind of action.

We must forgive as Christ himself, forgave us!

“1 Pt 3:10 - 12, For *"He who would love life & see good days, Let him refrain 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 & His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil."*

II. Zealous for Doing Good



1 Pt. 3:13 - 17, “And who *is* he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good?

¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, *you are* blessed. “*And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.*” ¹⁵ But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts & always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

¹⁶ having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.

¹⁷ For *it is* better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

III. Our Example: Jesus the Christ



1 Pt. 3:18-22, “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, ¹⁹ by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while *the* ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.

²¹ There is also an antitype which now saves us--baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.

Conclusion:

Hebs 11:32-38, "And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also *of* David and Samuel and the prophets: ³³ who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

³⁵ Women received their dead raised to life again. And others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment.

³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented-- ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, *in* dens and caves of the earth.