

I Peter 4:12-19

Standing Bold through Suffering

- > What reaction should we have toward suffering and trials (vv. 12-13)? Do not be surprised when they come, instead rejoice in the fact you are taking part in the sufferings of Christ.
- > What is a result from suffering according to verse 14? There is a blessing that comes by the Spirit of God.
- > Suffering through the consequences of sinful behavior is not honorable, but when we suffer for the cause of Christ we are told not to be ashamed (v. 16).
- > What is the best thing to do when experiencing righteous suffering (v. 19)? Commit our souls to our faithful Creator.

Application

We face a lot of pressure to go with the flow of culture. The challenge is to ignore these pressures and remain focused on the life God calls us to live. Whenever and wherever we go against the grain of culture for the sake of Christ, we can be sure persecution will follow. Consider these two thoughts:

- One of the greatest hindrances to living a powerful Christian life is suffering. There is a temptation to blend in with our culture in hopes of avoiding any suffering or embarrassment that would result from living for Christ.
- One of the greatest rewards for living a powerful Christian life is suffering. As we suffer for the glory of God, we make a bold statement that says loud and clear that we care more about Christ than about the foolish words of those who may look down on us.

When we are bold, Christ is magnified. When Christ is magnified, our lives are serving their greatest purpose! In your life, is suffering for Christ a hindrance or a reward?

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