



Suffering Well for Godliness

1 Peter 3:13-17

Those passionate for godliness have complete security (3:13)

“Now who is there to harm you”

- God knows what His people are encountering in life and He is devoted to care for them in response to their prayers.
 - Peter is not asking them to deny the reality of suffering and affliction they are experiencing.
 - He is helping them to put it in perspective – an eternal perspective.
 - Romans 8:31
 - Peter wants these suffering believers to take the long view.
 - Romans 8:18

“if you are zealous for what is good”

- Peter is trying to help them stay focused on a passion for godliness.
- It is easy to get distracted, discouraged and despondent when focused on anything but the Lord.

Observable hopefulness and humility while suffering honors Jesus as Lord (3:14-15)

“But even if you should suffer for righteousness sake”

- Persecution and affliction for the sake of righteousness is expressed in Scripture as the rule, not the exception to the rule.
 - John 15:20
 - John 16:33
 - 1 Peter 4:12

“you will be blessed” “you will be blessed”

- The blessing associated with suffering for righteousness is the presence of God, the peace of God and the promise of eternity with God.
 - Luke 6:22–23

“Have no fear of them, nor be troubled,”

- Opponents and persecutors should not take the focus of followers of Jesus.
- We should not take our eye off the goal and find ourselves being thrown into confusion or doubt.

Observable hopefulness and humility while suffering honors Jesus as Lord (3:14-15)

“but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy”

- With hearts firmly fixed on our Lord and His promises, we must continue our passionate pursuit of righteousness.
- Peter applies a passage from Isaiah 8.
 - Isaiah 8:12–13
- When opposition and hostility appears, we need to rekindle the fires of dedication to Jesus in our hearts.

“always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you”

- Honoring the Lord Jesus as holy is not private, but very observable.
- Preparations should be made to share our confidence in the power of our Lord Jesus.
- We have reasons for being hopeful and we should do what we can to be prepared to share them.

Observable hopefulness and humility while suffering honors Jesus as Lord (3:14-15)

“yet do it with gentleness and respect”

- The natural reaction to persecutors is anger or apathy.
- By the grace of Spirit of God, humility and kindness can characterize our responses.
 - Matthew 5:43–48

“having a good conscience”

- The flesh wants to retreat or retaliate, but the Spirit wants us to honor the truth, by living and sharing the gospel (Cf. 2:9-12).

“so that, when you are slandered”

- Worldly people don't understand Christ-centered thinking and behavior so they condemn it.

“those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame”

- Their shame will be vividly seen on the final day of judgment.

Suffering for godliness is superior to suffering for evil (3:17)

- “*if that should be God’s will*” - God sovereignly superintends all that happens to His people on His earth and He has a purpose for it.
 - 1 Peter 4:19
- There is nothing that comes upon the people of God that God does not sovereignly control.
 - Job 1:21–22
 - Job 2:9–10
- To suffer for evil happens when we live in a selfish and sinful manner and suffer the consequences.
- We can also suffer for doing evil by reacting in the flesh to persecution and affliction and dishonor our Lord Jesus in the process.

Questions to Consider

- Are you experiencing discouragement because you are distracted from your focus on Jesus?
- Are you preparing to share the hope within you with others as part of your preparation for suffering?
- Do you see gentleness and respect as characteristic responses to opposition?



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