

1 Peter 4:15-19

¹⁵ Indeed, none of you should suffer as a murderer or thief or wrongdoer, or even as a meddler. ¹⁶ But if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but glorify God that you bear that name. ¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who disobey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ And,

“If it is hard for the righteous to be saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

¹⁹ So then, those who suffer according to God’s will should entrust their souls to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

Berean Study Bible

¹⁵ None of you should suffer as a murderer or a thief or a wrongdoer, or as a meddler.

¹⁶ But if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed,
but glorify God in this name.

¹⁷ Because the season has begun
for judgement to move out from the house of God.

So, if it starts from us, what will be the outcome
for those disobeying the Gospel of God?

¹⁸ And, if it is with difficulty a righteous is saved,
how will an ungodly and a sinner be enlightened?

¹⁹ Therefore, those who are suffering according to the will of God,
let them commit their souls to their faithful Creator
in doing good.

My own translation

1

Persecutors in peril. 1 Peter 4:15-19

Suffering for the right reason. 4:15-16

Prevent yourself from legitimate suffering. 15 “None of you should suffer as a...”
Prepare yourself for illegitimate suffering. 16 “not be ashamed, but glorify God”

Suffering always backfires. 4:17

Persecutors remove their protection. 17a “move out from the house of God”
Persecutors become the persecuted. 17b “what will be the outcome for those”

Suffering has consequences. 4:18-19

Sinners make life difficult for themselves. 18 “how will the sinner be enlightened”

Sinners need saints to remain faithful. 19 “commit their souls... in doing good”

2

Be a saint in a sinful world. 1 Peter 4:15-19

Live a life of integrity. 4:15-16

Avoid sin in all its forms. 15 “None of you should”

Glorify God in all His forms. 16 “but glorify God”

Live a life of humility. 4:17

Recovery begins with repentance. 17b “it starts from us”

Conviction includes compassion. 17b “what will be the outcome”

Live a life of purity. 4:18-19

Speak words of Truth. 18 “be enlightened”

Live lives of Truth. 19 “in doing good”

3

P. P. P. Purity. 1 Peter 4:15-19

Public purity. 4:15-16

Don't be seen as a sinner. 15 “none of you should suffer as...”

Do be seen as a saint. 16 “not be ashamed, but glorify God”

Progressive purity. 4:17

God demands His people live in holiness. 17a “judgement... house of God”

God judges His world for lack of holiness. 17b “those disobeying the Gospel”

Personal purity. 4:18-19

Committed to tell of salvation. 18 “sinner be enlightened”

Committed to live with the Saviour. 19 “commit their souls to...”

4

God's contingency planning. 1 Peter 4:15-19

Key words: “if” 16, 17, 18. “Because” 17. “Therefore” 19.

Know God's contingency plan. 4:15-16

16 “you suffer as a Christian”

16 “do not be ashamed”

16 “glorify God in this name”

Why we need a contingency plan. “Because”. 4:17-18

Judgement is incremental. 17a “the season for judgement to move out”

Tragedy is inevitable. 17b “the outcome for disobeying the Gospel”

Salvation is difficult. 18 “with difficulty a righteous is saved”

This is the contingency plan. “Therefore”. 4:19, no more “if”

Commit to God’s will. 19a “according to the will of God”

Commit to the Creator. 19b “commit their souls to their faithful Creator”

Commit to doing good. 19c “commit to their faithful Creator in doing good”

5

How good people respond in bad times. 1 Peter 4:15-19

God’s people ask why bad things happen. 4:15-16

Ask, ‘am I part of the problem?’. 15 “none of you should suffer as...”

Ask, ‘how can I be part of the solution?’. 16 “not be ashamed, but glorify God”

God’s people understand that bad things happen. 4:17-18

Bad things started against God. 17 (Lucifer’s rebellion, Garden of Eden, Calvary)

Bad things perpetuate bad things. 17-18

God’s people know how to respond when bad things happen. 4:19

God’s people commit to the good God. 19 “commit their souls to...”

God’s people commit to doing good. 19 “commit... in doing good”

6

Being the difference you want to happen. 1 Peter 4:15-19

Christians are different from the world. 4:15-16

Believers avoid what is sinful. 15 “none of you should suffer as...”

Believers acknowledge the Saviour. 16 “glorify God in this name”

Christians are salt and light for the world. 4:17-18

Salvation is not easy. 18a “with difficulty a righteous person is saved”

Sinners are not saved. 18b “how will an ungodly and a sinner be enlightened”

Christians continue to bless the world. 4:19

Believers first serve the Almighty. 19 “commit their souls to...”

Believers also serve all others. 19 “in doing good”

Other possible titles

Suffering is good for the soul.
A different perspective on suffering.
The good, the bad, and the ugly.
Boot Camp for believers.
It's not easy, but it's worth it.
Suffering hurts in a heartless world.
Why does a loving God allow suffering?
Why doesn't God fix it?
You can't please all the people all the time.
Getting saved is not as easy as you think.
Help for the helpless.
Bad moon rising.
Ripple effect.
Domino effect.

Cross-references

"It is time for judgment to begin with the house of God" v17

If the righteous receive their due on earth, how much more the ungodly and the sinner!
Proverbs 11:31

For behold, I am beginning to bring disaster on the city that bears My Name, so how could you possibly go unpunished? You will not go unpunished, for I am calling down a sword upon all the inhabitants of the earth, declares the LORD of Hosts.' Jeremiah 25:29

For this is what the LORD says: "If those who do not deserve to drink the cup must drink it, can you possibly remain unpunished? You will not go unpunished, for you must drink it too.
Jeremiah 49:12

Only you have I known from all the families of the earth; therefore, I will punish you for all your iniquities. Amos 3:2

But I say unto you, that it shall be more tolerable in that day for Sodom, than for that city...
Luke 10:12-14

For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry? Luke 23:31

There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil, first for the Jew, then for the Greek; Romans 2:9

O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? Galatians 3:1

Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? Galatians 5:7

Quotes and illustrations

One of our church Elders had his granddaughter come home from infants school and declare she was actually not a girl at all. She was being taught gender was fluid, and instead of being a girl, she was somewhere on the ever-changing spectrum somewhere between the currently 64 different, identifiable genders.

God invented gender – declaring there was only male and female. It is so important, you can read about it on page 1 of the Bible, in Genesis chapter 1.

(Then He invented marriage, and instituted it in the Garden of Eden. You can read about that in Genesis chapter 2. Marriage is a religious ceremony. But the church gave away marriage; first to civil registration, where it was degraded from a sacred covenant with God, to a secular contract that ignored God. Then the church relinquished marriage, which was, after all, only a social contract, to be performed by civil celebrants. Then we cancelled God's definition of marriage, and allowed further decline so we could embrace homosexual unions under the heading of marriage.)

We can't see it yet, but we have opened our children to become an entire generation with mental health issues, not knowing who they are, or what they are, or how women and men differ from one another in complementary and beneficial ways, or how women and men can develop healthy relationships. The worst is yet to come.

Music and songs

"if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed" v16

Be bold. Be strong. For the Lord your God is with you.

Blessed be Your name in the land that is plentiful. Ot 42

I'm not ashamed to own my Lord... At the cross. H

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, you soldiers of the cross. H

Thank You Lord for the trials. Ot 53

"according to the will of God" v19

Where there's a will He has a way.

"commit their souls to their faithful Creator" v19

I will trust in You

I'll trust in Him though darkness hides His face.
Is your burden heavy... Reach out to Jesus
Tower of strength
When I lift up my head
Where else have we to go

"in doing good." v19

He has shown you O man what is good.

Thought starters for personal reflection or group discussion

1. What is one thing in 1 Peter 4:15-19 that you found interesting, or unusual, or challenging?
 2. The world has been a sinful place ever since the Fall in the Garden of Eden. Can you give an example of it becoming more/less sinful?
 3. Look at v16. If we are given a hard time for holding to our Faith, a) what do we not do, and why; and b) what do we do, and why?
 4. The Biblical "Judeo-Christian Ethic" has strongly impacted our laws and our culture. Can you give an example of how the Bible has made our country different from say, a Muslim, or a Communist, country? So, do you think a Biblical ethic is generally a good thing?
 5. Suggests some ways in which a Jesus, or a Biblical mindset, can helpfully address current issues like, for example, covid-19, Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, or gender issues.
 6. What is something you can do, in order to do good with a Creation viewpoint?
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