

## The School of Suffering Response Guide

1 Peter 3:13-4:6

Bethany Assembly of God

8/30/2020

- Have you ever suffered because you're a Christian? How did you respond?
- Read 1 Peter 3:18-22. What examples does Jesus set for you in His suffering?
- How does knowing that Jesus suffered for you bring you comfort in your suffering?
- How can remembering Jesus' suffering give you courage?

**Big Idea: You can win at suffering.**

### **1. You should have a ready response. vv. 13-17**

- Read 1 Peter 3:13-17.
- What does Peter mean when he tells us to "honor Christ the Lord as holy"?
- What can help you to remember that Christ is over all authorities and powers, so that even if people mistreat you for doing what's right, you have a deep seated confidence in Christ as King?
- Where do you keep your mask so that you're always ready should you need it?
- Peter says that you should be ready to give the reason for the hope you have in Jesus? How could you get ready? How have you prepared?
- How could you remind yourself to stay in a state of readiness so that you don't miss the opportunities God gives you to share your hope?

- In what manner should you share your hope? Should you be defensive? Belligerent? Angry?
- In addition to defending your hope with your lips, Peter says there's another way you defend it. What is that other way?
- If your lips say one thing, but your life says another, will people listen to your reason for hope?

## **2. You shouldn't join the deluge of depravity.**

- Read 1 Peter 4:1-6
- Does suffering automatically mean that people stop sinning? What kind of suffering is Peter talking about?

“Therefore whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin means ‘whoever has suffered for doing right , and has still gone on obeying God in spite of the suffering it involved , has made a clear break with sin...Following through with a decision to obey God even when it will mean physical suffering has a moral strengthening effect on our lives: it commits us more firmly than ever before to a pattern of action where obedience is even more important than our desire to avoid pain.” - Wayne Grudem

- The time you spent in sin was more than enough to tell you that it isn't the answer. In your experience with sin, has it ever satisfied you?
- When you stop participating in sin, people will wonder why and think you're strange. When has this happened to you? How were you tempted to participate in sin because of the fear of missing out or because you didn't want to be an outsider?
- What are the two things Peter says we should remember when people malign us for not participating in sin?

- How can remembering that the unrepentant will give an account to God and that the end is not the same for those who trust Jesus give you confidence not to fall back into sin, even when you will suffer for it?

## **Conclusion**

- Are you currently suffering for Christ? How can God's word in 1 Peter 3:13-4:6 give you confidence and help you endure?
- If you're not currently suffering, how does God's word help you be prepared for when it comes?
- What is one application the Holy Spirit has impressed on you through God's word that you need to go and practice?