

Encouragement When We Suffer for Being Christians

Have you ever been tempted to hide your faith for fear of judgment or ridicule? By studying the words of the apostle Peter, we'll find courage in the grace of Jesus Christ to remain faithful to the gospel in the face of injustice and suffering. In his letter to the early Christians, Peter reminds us that we have the strength to live this way because Christ lived this way first.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- If one person is mean to another, what would you expect a natural human response would be?
- Does religious persecution only occur at the hands of a government? Are there other individuals or groups who might persecute someone for their faith?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Encouragement When We Suffer for Being Christians](#)

READ [1 Peter 3](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- Peter's advice in [1 Peter 3:8-22](#) and Paul's instructions in [Romans 12:14-21](#) echo Jesus's teaching in his Sermon on the Mount in [Matthew 5:11-12](#). Why is this significant? In your current circumstances, is it easy or difficult for you to follow the heart of their messages—to bless those who persecute you and overcome evil with good? Why or why not?
- In segment 2, host Scott Hoezee observes the “great irony...that all the lament psalms lament God's absence to God's face.” How does this actually demonstrate the psalmists' continued trust in God? How does it encourage you to continue trusting God in your own situations of injustice or suffering?
- Reflecting on [1 Peter 3:15-16](#), Scott and host Darrell Delaney observe that Peter wants us to respond to ill-treatment in Christlike ways, specifically with gentleness and respect. Do you think that type of response comes naturally to us or is it challenging? Do you think it's possible to be gentle but not respectful or vice versa? Why do you think both are necessary for a Christlike response?
- Why is it beneficial to remember the meaning and promises of our baptism in situations of suffering?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Romans 12:14-21](#), [Matthew 5:11-12](#), [2 Timothy 4:1-5](#), [Psalm 34:12-16](#)

CONCLUSION

When we suffer for the name of Jesus Christ, the apostle Peter wants us to hold tightly to three truths:

1. Live the way Christ showed us to live.
2. Trust God in the midst of suffering for his name's sake.
3. We are not alone when we suffer for Christ.

Close your time of study in prayer. Talk to God about where you feel weak and need him to strengthen you. Thank him for always being with you in all things.

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