

SUFFERING & ITS EVALUATION ACROSS 1 PETER



1 Peter 1:6-7

⁶ In all this you rejoice, even if now, for a little while, you must be distressed [*lupeō*] by various kinds of trials [*poikilois perasmois*], ⁷ so that the genuine quality of your faith, which is more valuable than gold (which ultimately will perish though refined by fire) might result in praise, glory, and honor when Messiah Jesus is revealed.

Suffering
can make
their faith
more
sturdy

1 Peter 2:12

“Make sure your conduct among the gentiles is honorable, so that, even though they accuse you of doing what is wrong, they might see your good deeds and glorify God in the day of his visitation.”

Doing Good

Accused of
Doing Wrong

Petrine Household Code (2:11-3:12)



First Segment of Household Code: Addressed to All Petrine Believers (2:13-17)

¹³ Submit yourselves to every human institution for the Lord's sake, whether to the emperor, as the one who holds the highest place of authority, ¹⁴ or to governors, as those who are sent by the emperor to punish wrongdoing and to approve doing good. ¹⁵ For it is God's will for your community that, **by doing good,** you should silence the uninformed words of ignorant people. ¹⁶ **Live as those who are free,** not using your freedom as a guise for evil; instead, **live as slaves of God.** ¹⁷ **Honor all people, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.**

Second Segment of Household Code: Addressed to Household Slaves (2:18-25)

The Example of Jesus: He “did not return slander when slandered” and “when he suffered...did not threaten in return”

(2:23). For slaves whose masters

are

perverse or intolerant

(2:18)

Second Segment of Household Code: Addressed to Household Slaves (2:18-25)

¹⁸ Household slaves, submit in all fear to your masters, not only to masters who are good [*agathos*] and tolerant [*epieikēs*] but to masters who are perverse [*skolios*]. ¹⁹ For this is commendable: if, because of being conscious of God, someone endures pain, when suffering unjustly. ²⁰ What recognition is deserved, if, when you sin and are beaten, you persevere? But if you persevere when you do good and yet

?

Conclusion of the Household

Code (3:8-12)

⁸ Finally, all of you, be like-minded, sympathetic, loving, compassionate, and humble. ⁹ Do not repay evil with evil or slander with slander, but instead give a blessing, since to this you were called, so that you might in turn inherit a blessing.

¹⁰ “For whoever desires to loves life
and to see good days

must stop their tongue from evil
and their lips from speaking deceit;

¹¹ That one must turn from evil and do good,
they must seek peace and pursue it.

¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous
and his ears are attentive to their prayer,

But the face of the Lord is set against those who do evil.” [Ps

Exhortations to “Doing Good”

- Aligns with their full allegiance to God in Christ
- Might actually be perceived as “doing what is wrong” (2:12) and be slandered (2:12, 15)

Strategy:
Interrogate the reasons for suffering

A Sustained Call to Evaluate Suffering (3:13-17)

1 Peter 3:13-17: Centerpiece of Peter's
theme of suffering and its evaluation

Suffering: The Pattern of Christ

- 3:18-22: Christological pattern of vindication from suffering
- 4:1-2: Jesus as example of turning away from sin to pursue God's will
- 4:3-4: Petrine believers have left behind sin/idolatry
- 4:5, 13-14, 16-18: God will vindicate believers



Present Suffering Affirmed (4:12-16)

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised by the fiery ordeal occurring among you as a test, as if something strange were happening to you. ¹³ Instead, rejoice to the extent that you are participating in the Messiah's sufferings, so that, when his glory is revealed, you may be overcome with joy. ¹⁴ If you are reviled because of the name of the Messiah, you are actually blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵ None of you ought to suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as one who rebels against the social order. ¹⁶ But if you should suffer as a "Christian" [Messiah-adherent], do not be

Evaluate!

Present Suffering Affirmed (4:19)

¹⁹ So then, those who are suffering according to the will of God should entrust themselves to their faithful Creator, even as they do what is good.

3:17: εἰ θέλοι [opt.] τὸ θέλημα τοῦ θεοῦ

ei theloi [opt.] to thelēma tou theou

“if the will of God **might possibly** will it”

Call to Evaluate

4:19: οἱ πάσχοντες κατὰ τὸ θέλημα τοῦ θεοῦ

hoi paschontes kata to thelēma tou theou

“those who suffer **according to** the will of God”

Assurance Provided

Communities united in suffering across the known world

5:9 Resist [the devil], resolute in faith, since you know that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by the family of believers across the world.

5:10 And the God of all grace—the one who called you into his eternal glory in the Messiah [Jesus]—after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore, build up, strengthen, and establish you.