

Standing in the True Grace of God

Peter's Life, Letters and Lord

1 Peter 4:12–19

Read 1 Peter 4:12–19.

1. How are Christians to respond to their sufferings? (vv. 13, 16, 19b, 19c)

How are they not to respond? (vv. 12, 16)

2. What tends to be your normal reaction to suffering? Why?
3. We experience suffering as a result of many different kinds of circumstances in our lives, sometimes as a result of our choices but often through no fault of our own.

Look at the causes of suffering in the first column and check the appropriate source(s) in the other columns.

Causes of suffering	A result of the curse	A result of our choices	A result of others sinning against us	A result of following Jesus
death				
poverty				
natural disasters				
meddling				
disease				
discrimination				
persecution				
murder				
broken relationships				

4. How have you suffered? Add your experiences to the chart above.
5. What kind of suffering can we avoid? (v. 15)
6. How would you define “meddling”? How could being a meddler end up causing you suffering?

7. What kind of suffering is Peter specifically talking about in this passage? (vv.14, 16)
8. Why should we “not be surprised” or think that this kind of suffering is “something strange” (v. 12)? (2:21; John 15:18–21)
9. What are the positive things that come from suffering “according to God's will” (v.19)?
 - v. 13
 - v. 14
 - v. 16
10. How does our present earthly suffering relate to our heavenly future? (v. 13; Matt. 5:11–12; Rom. 8:18; 2 Cor. 4:16–18; Jas. 1:12)
11. When we are cursed and insulted by people who despise and reject Jesus, we are simultaneously receiving a blessing.
 - a. What is that blessing? (v. 14)
 - b. What is the significance of this blessing? (Is. 11:2; John 14:25–26; Rom. 8:16–17, 26–27)
12. Have you ever been tempted to walk away from Jesus because circumstances were too difficult? Describe what happened. How did God show his faithfulness (v. 19) to you during that time?
13. Why do you think these Christians were feeling ashamed about their suffering? Why shouldn't they feel this way? (v.16)
14. Peter says that God's judgment time is beginning. He is starting with his own family (v. 17) but, for His children this is not the judgment of condemnation or punishment. What is God's purpose in allowing his children to suffer? (1:6–7; 4:1–2; Heb. 10:32–39)
15. So the bottom line is that we need to “continue to do good” (v. 19) even though we are suffering for being Christians. What does that look like? (Matt. 5:43–48; Rom. 12:17–21)