

The Do's and Don't's of Suffering for Being a Christian

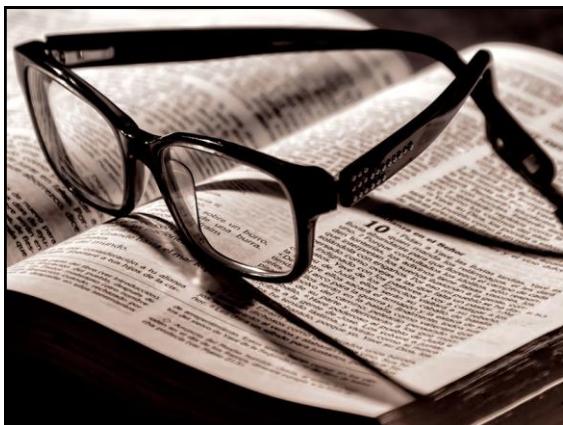
1 Peter 4:12-19

¹⁶ However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. ¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey 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 commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

¹² Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵ If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler.





Don't be Surprised

- We live in a fallen world
- We are misfits
- Christ suffered



Do have an Eternal Perspective

- Massively counter cultural



Do Rejoice and Praise

- It is an honour
- It can promote the gospel
- God can shape us

—DO— GOOD.

"The quickest way for anyone to reach the sun and the light of day is not to run west chasing after the setting sun, but to head east into the darkness until one comes to the sunrise."

Gerald L. Sittser

Is our own thinking shaped by our culture rather than the Bible?

Are our lives sufficiently different to others to attract attention?

Does our response to suffering point others to God?



Don't be an Idiot

- Are we different?
- Don't suffer for sin
- Be brave and bold