



VISION & VALUES



Center City Church

1 Peter 4:12-16

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. **13** But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

1 Peter 4:12-16

14 If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory[b] and of God rests upon you. **15** But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. **16** Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

John 16:33

“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

Main thought

Christian suffering is uniquely *painful*,
uniquely *purposeful*, uniquely *joyful*
with Jesus

1 Peter 4:12

Beloved, do not be **surprised** at the **fiery** trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

I. uniquely **painful**

1 Peter 4:13

but rejoice **insofar** as you share Christ's
sufferings...that you may also rejoice
and be glad when his glory is revealed.

(see also Romans 1:18-21)

I. uniquely **painful**

1 Peter 4:14

if you are insulted for the **name of Christ**,
you are blessed, because the Spirit of
glory and of God rests upon you.

(see also 2 Timothy 3:12)

I. uniquely **painful**

1 Peter 4:15

Let none of **you** suffer as a murderer, thief, evildoer, or as a meddler...

I. uniquely **painful**

1 Peter 4:16

Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be **ashamed**, but let him glorify God in that name.

I. uniquely **painful**

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

II. uniquely **purposeful**

Five macro reasons for suffering

(John Piper)

1. Repentance

Luke 13:4–5: “Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

II. uniquely **purposeful**

Five macro reasons for suffering

(John Piper)

2. Reliance

2 Corinthians 1:8–9: We were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.

II. uniquely **purposeful**

Five macro reasons for suffering

(John Piper)

3. Righteousness

Hebrews 12:6, 10–11: “The Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives... He disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. ”

II. uniquely **purposeful**

Five macro reasons for suffering

(John Piper)

3. Righteousness

Hebrews 12:6, 10–11: “... For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”

II. uniquely **purposeful**

Five macro reasons for suffering

(John Piper)

4. Reward

2 Corinthians 4:17: This light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.

Five macro reasons for suffering

(John Piper)

5. Reminder

1 Peter 3: 18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit...

II. uniquely **purposeful**

Main thought

Christian suffering is uniquely *painful*,
uniquely *purposeful*, uniquely *joyful*
with Jesus

John 16:33

I have said these things to you, that **in me** you may have **peace**. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

III. uniquely **joyful**

John 16:20-22

Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, **but your sorrow will turn into joy.**

John 16:20-22

When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.

James 1:2-3

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

2 Corinthians 6:10

...as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing...

III. uniquely **joyful**

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uniquely *purposeful*, uniquely *joyful*
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