

1 Peter
10/26/25
Week #6: Suffering with Hope

Scripture

1 Peter 3:8-22

Review

Peter calls his readers to live in *submissive obedience* to authority in 3 area:

- As *citizens* (2:13-17)
- As *employees* (2:18-20)
- As a *spouse* (3:1-7)

Motivation

When someone does something to wrong you, we feel that they owe us something. Nobody has to teach us this, it is inherent in our nature.

My 5 year old already knows that when someone does something to hurt him, they owe him some things.

These things are the same for little problems as big problems...

- **Remorse** (at bare minimum)
 - We want to know they care that we are hurt
 - We want a sincere apology
 - I'm sorry I smacked you...
- **Sympathy** and **empathy** (ideally)
 - We want to be understood
 - We want them to think how they would feel if it were them
 - Would you like it if she smacked you? "no..."
- **Restoration** (if at all possible)
 - You broke it, fix it
 - You took it, give it back or replace it
 - Why don't you give your brother a hug...
- **Justice**
 - Punishment that fits the crime

- If we suffered, let's be honest, we want the other person to suffer a little for the suffering they've caused us.
 - We need you to go take a *break* away from the family for a few minutes...

The problem is not that we **desire** these things when we are hurt, but that we often go about trying to **get** or force these things in very **unhealthy** ways when we are hurt...

So, let's talk about it using the wisdom offered to us in **1 Peter 3:8-22**

How should we handle it when we get hurt?

Peter gives us instructions on what our conduct should be like depending on the situation.

1. When we are Hurt by a **Brother**

1 Peter 3:8-9

⁸ Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.

⁹ Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.

● **Prioritize Unity**

- **Unity of mind** and **brotherly love** leads me to believe that here Peter is specifically talking about our interactions with **other believers**.
 - We can't have unity of mind with those who do not know the Lord

1 Cor. 2:16

¹⁶ "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" **But we have the mind of Christ.**

- **Unity of mind does *not* mean uniformity**
 - Diversity of cultural backgrounds, opinions, personalities, life experiences, talents, and professions are a part of every healthy community.
- The NASB says "**be harmonious**".
- We should think of ourselves as an orchestra, each instrument unique, playing its part in time with the others to make a symphony.
 - I was asked this week, "do you wanna ring?" I had absolutely no idea what I was being asked, which is kind of normal for me right now... They asked me to fill in on the handbell choir for one of their missing parts...
 - Unity is extremely **important** for making beautiful music.

- **Cultivate Brotherly Love**

New Testament Brotherly love in the ancient Christian literature means to treat others as if they were a part of one's family. This kind of love means "to like" another person and to **want what is best for that individual**. The basic word used for the brotherly type of love, *phileo*, sometimes means "to kiss," which was to show close friendship (Mark 14:44).

- *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary*

I have always stood by the idea/teaching that we are called to **love** our brothers and sisters, not necessarily to **like** them - but I feel I have been challenged on this view point recently.

There is an inherent undertone of dismissal, or excusal with this philosophy.

But I think that this kind of love implies that we are at least **making an effort** to like them.

- Everyone covered by the blood of Christ is my brother or sister, but not everyone is my friend.
- There are intangible lines someone crosses over from being a **brother in Christ**, to being a **bro**, then somehow crosses another threshold into becoming my **friend who sticks closer than a brother**.

Proverbs 18:24

*A man of many companions may come to ruin,
but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.*

- This process cannot be graphed, charted, or broken down into 6 easy steps. It is a divine mystery
 - A mystery that we can choose by our attitudes and actions towards others to either move towards or avoid entirely.

I have no duty to be anyone's Friend and no man in the world has a duty to be mine. No claims, no shadow of necessity. Friendship is unnecessary, like philosophy, like art, like the universe itself (for God did not need to create). It has no survival value; rather it is one of those things which give value to survival.

- *CS Lewis, The Four Loves*

- I believe this process is what we are called to as Christians, cultivating deeper, healthier relationships with those God has placed around us.
- I always think of David and Jonathan as Biblical examples of cultivated brotherly love

Peter continues by quoting from Psalm 34

1 Peter 3:9-12

¹⁰ For

*“Whoever desires to love life
and see good days,*

*let him keep his tongue from evil
and his lips from speaking deceit;*

¹¹ *let him turn away from evil and do good;
let him seek peace and pursue it.*

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

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

● **Let it Go!**



In order for these kinds of relationships to be sustained, it requires a few things:

- **Sympathy**
 - A heart that seeks to understand
- **A tender heart**
 - A heart that is soft towards others
- **A humble mind**
 - A mind that is willing to let go of our need to be right
- **Upside-down Kingdom Glasses**
 - A heart that is willing to give what it not deserved, and withhold that which is deserved
- **A tamed tongue**
 - A heart that chooses what is **good** over what is **easy**.

Paul agrees with Peter in Romans

Rom. 12:17-21

¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, **so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.** ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

This verse always cracks me up how people contort and misconstrue it to somehow still be **aggressive** towards those who hurt them.

I'm gonna be so nice to that jerk he's going to SUFFER!

BURN HIM ALIVE WITH MY LOVE! KILL HIM WITH KINDNESS!!

I joke, but you all have heard statements like these too!

I really do not think this is what Paul had in mind when he penned these words....

2. When we are Hurt by an Unbeliever

1 Peter 3:13-17

¹³ Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is **good**?

¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

• Remember How the Story Ends

- In the Upside-Down Kingdom, we have no need to fear anyone.
 - **Phil 1:21** For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.
 - **Matt 10:28**
- Nothing they can say or do can change that victory in Christ.

• Prioritize their Salvation

- Always be prepared to be **inconvenienced** for the sake of the Gospel
 - Rest assured, God will not hesitate to use your most inopportune moments for the sake of the lost around you.

- Everyone should be **able to articulate** what you believe (the Gospel) clearly and confidently.
- Everyone should be **willing to share** what you believe (the Gospel) no matter the circumstances or personal cost
- Everyone should be **sensitive to the other person** when sharing what you believe (the Gospel).

● Be Upright in Character

- There is no excuse to stoop to their level. The world is just doing what the world does. We have a new story now... Let's act like it
 - Classic fight between an older child and a younger child - the expectations are different
 - Nobody is perfect, but as we mentioned a few weeks ago, it should be apparent that you are closely following the One who *is* perfect.
- **1 Pet 2:12** *Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.*
- If we live like the world, then we get the world's prizes...

3. When we Hurt Ourselves

1 Peter 3:18-22

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, ¹⁹ in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

Ok, I'll be honest, I get lost in all the wording in this one. This is where a thought-for-thought translation or paraphrase can be a helpful tool.

See if this is a little clearer:

It's better to suffer for doing good, if that's what God wants, than to be punished for doing bad. That's what Christ did definitively: suffered because of others' sins, the Righteous One for the unrighteous ones. He went through it all—was put to death and then made alive—to bring us to God.

¹⁹⁻²² *He went and proclaimed God's salvation to earlier generations who ended up in the prison of judgment because they wouldn't listen. You know, even though God waited patiently all the days that Noah built his ship, only a few were saved then, eight to be*

exact—saved from the water by the water. The waters of baptism do that for you, not by washing away dirt from your skin but by presenting you through Jesus' resurrection before God with a clear conscience. Jesus has the last word on everything and everyone, from angels to armies. He's standing right alongside God, and what he says goes.

- **Recognize the Reason for our Suffering**

- Not a fun one, but there are times when we are suffering because of sinful choices we have made.



- Suffering for living as Christ has called us to live is different than this kind of suffering.

- **Admit our Rejection of His Patience**

- The flood snuck up on nobody...
- This was suffering that was chosen by a continued rejection of God's warnings through Noah.
- Likewise, nobody is surprised by Hell.
 - Lewis - "*the gates of Hell are locked from the inside*"

- **Accept what Christ has done for our suffering**

- Christ suffered in our place
- We are saved from our **sin** - not necessarily from our **consequences**
- He has promised to be with us in our suffering, even self-inflicted
- He is interceding for us at the right hand of God

In Close

Some suffering is inevitable outside the Garden, but not all suffering is created equal. it can and should be handled differently depending on the situation.

Pray to Close