

## Different Suffering Love

### TALK IT OVER

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step.

#### Key Scripture

*Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,<sup>2</sup> so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.<sup>3</sup> For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries.<sup>4</sup> In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign you;<sup>5</sup> but they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.<sup>6</sup> For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead, that though they are judged in the flesh as men, they may live in the spirit according to the will of God.<sup>7</sup> The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.<sup>8</sup> Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.<sup>9</sup> Be hospitable to one another without complaint.<sup>10</sup> As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.<sup>11</sup> Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength, which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. **1 Peter 4:1-11***

**Key Points:** New life looks cruciform—patterned after Jesus' cross—and therefore has a completely new orientation to **1) our desires, 2) our clocks, and 3) to our relationships.**

**Big Idea:** Suffering against the temptations of the flesh offers us an opportunity to think of others and serve them with the gift given us from God.

#### Understanding the Text:

- How has Jesus provided us an example of suffering in the flesh?
- What is our temptation as Christians with regard to our old ways of living?
- How will those that malign you be held accountable for their actions?
- What comfort is verse 6 for those who never see reward in this life for righteous living?
- What does it mean that love covers a multitude of sins?
- How should our understanding of the gospel inform our conviction about community?

#### Application:

- What does it mean to suffer in the flesh like Jesus?
- What things in culture do you need to reject that will set you apart among your friends?
- How can you reject those things in loving way to your friends who don't know Jesus?
- What does living for the will of God look like in your life?
- What worldly behavior do you need to repent of today?
- How is God glorified through our service for one another?

**Start Doing.** Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Bless someone this week that is evil
- Bless someone this week that insults you

**Dinner Discussion.** Look at the examples Peter gives and the inherent stretching involved.

- How much stretching does forgiveness entail (vs. 8 covers over a multitude of sins)—to let go of your right to an offense?
- How much stretching does ungrudging hospitality involve?
- How much stretching does service involve?

**Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over online.**

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