

The Christian's Response to Persecution

1 Peter 4:12-19

The Bottom Line: Faithful Christians glorify their Faithful Creator when they suffer in Jesus' name.

Introduction:

Have you ever been bullied or insulted because you were a little different from everyone else in the room?

Sometimes you are attacked when you have not done anything bad, and even when you have done something good.

Christians all around the world are insulted and attacked for their faith everyday (rf. Open Door USA).

Truth:

In our text today, Peter describes three responses that the Christian believer should							
have when they are persecuted. Read 1 Peter 4:12-19.							
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Application & Conclusion:

Faithful Christians glorify their faithful Creator when they suffer in Jesus' name. For those who are true believers, it is not *if* you will suffer, but *when*. The greatest message you preach is how you live and respond while you face your most difficult circumstances and most heinous enemies.

When you respond like Peter instructs you to instead of reacting and retaliating, people will take notice. There is a good chance that those who are facing eternal fire will opt to face the fiery trial instead.

Consider those who are persecuting you and why you are facing persecution. If it is for Christ that you suffer, then rejoice and trust God. His Spirit is resting on you.

Reflection Questions:

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2. What does this teach me about me?

3. How do I apply this to my life?