

“How to Avoid Unnecessary Suffering”

John 17:1-20

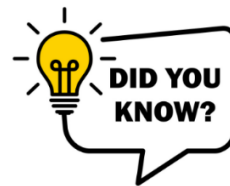
For God So Loved the World – John, Part 2

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Due to living in a fallen world... as Christians we experience _____ in many areas of life. Examples as follows...

- The areas of sexuality, the workplace, finances, health, parenting practices, social justice, interpersonal relationships, and more.



Some of the suffering we experience can be _____?!

“My people are destroyed from lack of _____.” – God (Hos 4:6)

“I don’t want to suffer unnecessarily! Tell me more.” *Sure. Let’s dive into our main passage for the wisdom we need.*

John 17:1-20

- **VV 11, 15...** Jesus prayed that we would be _____ against “the evil one.” (2 Thes 3:3; Rom 8:34)
This is a divine safeguarding against spiritual harm and the ill-effects of sin.
 - *And yet, we can still be harmed by the enemy. Why?*
- **V 11c...** Jesus prayed that we would be _____. (1 Cor 1:10; Phil 2:1-2) Our unity testifies to the unsaved world the truth regarding the Gospel, which is *the Good News regarding Jesus and the way to be saved*.
 - *And yet, some churches are familiar with what it’s like for there to be division and strife. Why?*
- **V 17...** Jesus prayed that we would be _____. (1 Thes 5:23; 2 Cor 3:18) To be sanctified means to be made more holy by applying the truths of the Bible, and to be set apart for a specific and eternal purpose.
 - *And yet, so many Christians do not fulfill their God-given purpose in life. Why not?*

The point is this: Through His prayers, Jesus made a way to ensure that we don’t suffer unnecessarily. (Check out Jesus’s motive in V 13.) *Yet, we still do due to a lack of biblical knowledge regarding all areas of life.*

“Interesting. Give me some examples, please.” *Sure. But before I do, I’ll state what the objective behind this message is.*

The objective: To acquire Biblical knowledge so that we won’t suffer needlessly.

TURN OVER FOR THE EXAMPLES, AS WELL AS THE GOING DEEPER QUESTIONS

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.” – Hos 4:6

This verse is often interpreted to mean that a lack of understanding or ignorance can lead to negative consequences. Here are seven specific examples where a lack of biblical knowledge can impact Christians today.

1. **Sexuality:** Christians will unnecessarily suffer with issues related to premarital sex, LGBTQ+ relationships, and gender confusion if they lack a clear understanding of biblical teachings on sexual morality.
2. **The Workplace:** Ethical dilemmas arise at the workplace all the time, such as issues of honesty, integrity, and fairness. A lack of biblical knowledge may lead Christians to make decisions that compromise biblical values.
3. **Finances:** Without a solid grasp of biblical principles regarding money stewardship (management) such as tithing, saving, generosity, and avoiding debt, Christians may face financial instability, a lack of contentment, struggling with greed and materialism, and a general lack of trusting the Lord with His financial resources.
4. **Health and Wellness:** The Bible offers guidance on maintaining a healthy lifestyle, including principles of self-control and the importance of rest. Not living according to a Biblical Christian worldview in this regard can lead to poor choices such as neglecting exercise, overindulgence, and not managing stress effectively.
5. **Parenting Practices:** Without biblical knowledge on parenting, such as the importance of healthy discipline, instruction, and modeling godly behavior, Christian parents might struggle with raising their children in a way that guards against behavioral issues and strained family dynamics.
6. **Social Justice and Compassion:** A lack of understanding of biblical teachings on justice, mercy, and advocacy for the marginalized can result in Christians being uninvolved or ineffective in addressing social injustices, and missing opportunities to make a positive impact for the sake of the Gospel.
7. **Interpersonal relationships:** Biblical principles on forgiveness, love, and conflict resolution are crucial for maintaining healthy relationships. Without these teachings, Christians may handle conflicts poorly, leading to unresolved issues and broken relationships.

In these examples... biblical knowledge provides a framework for understanding and navigating all aspects of life, helping Christians make informed and wise decisions aligned with their faith and avoiding unnecessary _____.

“Wow, thank you. Because I have a properly working frontal lobe and because I am a Spirit-filled Christian, not an arrogant fool, I desire to apply biblical wisdom in every area of my life. (Psa 19:7-11) *But how?*”

- Go to “The 90-Day Challenge” on the church’s website and prayerfully read through the New Testament in 90 days!

GOING DEEPER FOR “HOW TO AVOID UNNECESSARY SUFFERING” – 07/28/24

Go through this note sheet and discuss with your growth group and/or your family at the dinner table. Seek opportunities to also share this with your friends, relatives, coworkers, neighbors, and/or school mates. Bring this note sheet to your work or school and discuss it with your workmate or schoolmate over lunch. Read the main passage and look up all of the supporting verses on the other side of this note sheet. Pray with one another.