

First Peter

“Suffering Saints”

Text—[1 Peter 4:1-19](#)

A. Previously in 1 Peter

1. Practical Peter-Marriage, Mutual, Missionary responsibilities
2. Separated at birth, by our belief and behavior
3. Saved People

B. Today: Suffering Saints

1. We may not like it, but it is inevitable.
2. What can we do about it?

1. Suffering can be Expected (4:1-6)

A. We are not Immune

1. “It rains on the just and the unjust”
2. Jesus suffered so will we.

B. We were Immoral

1. We pay the consequences
2. If we have a conscience, we have regrets

C. We are Indicted

1. By our past—“You’re no better than the rest of us!”
2. By our present—“strange, ...speaking evil of you.” [V. 4](#)

2. Suffering can be Easier (4:7-11)

A. Keep a cool head (v.7)

1. “Be serious and watchful in your prayers.”
2. [1 Peter 4:12](#)—do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial

B. Keep a warm heart (v.8)

1. Some think, “Misery loves company.” But it doesn’t.
2. We need each other in good times and *especially* in bad!
3. We need love, forgiveness, acceptance to face a world of hatred, resentment & rejection!
4. [John 13:35](#) “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

C. Keep open arms (v.9)

1. Kindness, Consideration, and Sacrifice identify us with God
2. Remember the story of the good Samaritan [Luke 10](#)
3. “He must have been a rich man, who didn’t have anything to do!”
4. No. Jesus is clear; we must be caring, giving and selfless.

D. Keep ready hands (v.10)

1. We are only servants of God’s grace.
2. Give to each other from what we have, or know or can do.
3. All we have came from Him. [James 1:17](#)
4. Remember the golden rule!

E. Keep a truthful tongue (v.11)

1. Oracles of God (NIV--as one speaking the very words of God)
2. God’s word is precious & valuable, we don’t want to misquote Him

3. Suffering can be Endured (4:13-19)

A. Keep your perspective (v.12)

1. Don’t think this is strange—Point 1: We can expect it!
2. Also know that it is not forever!

B. Keep your peace (vs. 13-14)

1. If you suffer, it is for Christ!
2. If it is for Christ, you will eternally be blessed from your suffering!

C. Keep your purity (v.15)

1. Suffer for the right reason and the right motive.
2. Don’t think that suffering for any reason will do!

D. Keep your prestige (v.16)

1. Don’t be ashamed; be honored!
2. [Acts 5:41](#)—“counted worthy to suffer shame for His name

E. Keep your poise (vs.17-19)

1. Stand for Christ
2. And you will stand with Christ!

Conclusion:

1. Suffering is not the problem, we all suffer various degrees and reasons
2. What we do with suffering determines our character!
3. We can make it if we will “commit our souls to Him!” [v. 19](#)