



Sermon Notes

Topic: Serving through suffering

Preacher: Ps Paul Curtis

Bible Passage: 1 Peter 4:14-19

Date: Sunday 20th July 2025

Study Guide Overview

- We take on the name of Jesus - We are his brothers and sisters. What a privilege!
- This privilege can sometimes result in challenging consequences – for some it is persecution.
- Persecution is rarely relevant to us today, but we are called to live out His nature – we are called to serve others.
- Suffering (Serving) is not without pain – but it is a wonderful refining process
- Suffering (Serving) introduces the experience of God’s glory.

Small Group Questions/Discussions

We all like to be connected in some way to those who are important or famous. We love to name drop whenever we can. Do you think we always grasp the significance of being connected to Jesus? How do you respond to the fact that He willingly owns each of us as brothers and sisters? This is an amazing privilege that we often overlook. What would change in our thinking if we valued this as we should?

Peter addresses the issue of persecution as a result of being a disciple of Jesus – as being someone who bears the name of Jesus. Can you see that this may well become a challenge we have to deal with in the future? What might that look like – and what will it mean for us to “stand firm”



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Small Group Questions/Discussions

At the moment, persecution is not a genuine reality for any of us just yet. But if we were to identify the challenge that we now face, as those who “bear his name” – it would be our calling to serve others. It’s not life threatening like persecution, but how can serving others who are in need, be a painful exercise? How does the privilege of our connection to Christ, create this responsibility to serve others. What is our motivation?

Serving others is painful. Firstly we have to overcome our own selfishness. Why is this battle often a means of suffering? How do we learn to overcome selfishness? Secondly, serving others is painful because people are often hard work. Ask my wife and kids, loving and serving me in all my weakness is hard work at times. What are some of the challenges we will encounter when we serve others?

Peter shares a couple of principles that talk about the blessing we receive when we stand firm in time of persecution. We make **God’s name known** and we **receive the glory of God**. What do these two things look like when we commit to a life of serving others? Persecution would certainly bring about a significant refining process in each of us – we would only keep our eyes on the “big picture” We would soon see what is most important in life. How does serving others with a heart like Christ, do a similar thing? As you pray, consider and give thanks for the privilege of bearing Jesus name. Then as a result of that, we have a responsibility to love God by serving the needs of others.