

1 Peter 3

1. For the Christian, what are two types of suffering?

- The suffering which others give to us.
- The suffering which we give to ourselves.

2. How do we get rid of the suffering which we bring on ourselves?

- We must simply ask God to take it away.

3. Do newborn babies crave milk?

- Very much so.

4. What is pure spiritual milk?

- The Word of God.

5. Who is the living Stone?

- The Lord Jesus.
- And we Christians are like living stones.

6. How are Christians like living stones?

- God is using us to build His Church.

7. Why are true Christians holy priests?

- Because God has chosen us to be priests.
- Because God has cleansed us and washed us.
- Because God has clothed us with priestly clothes.
- Because God has prepared us for service to Him.

8. What are our sacrifices which are acceptable to God?

- We offer ourselves to God to thank Him and praise Him.

-We help others, pray for others, and share Christ with others.

9. How is submitting to government leaders for the Lord's sake?

-When we obey earthly authority, we are honoring God's sovereign authority.

-In the first two chapters of I Peter, God through Peter teaches us about submission and suffering.

-Now, at the beginning of the third chapter of 1 Peter, we are taught about submission within marriage.

Let's read 1 Peter 3:1-2

1-Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives,

2-when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.

-In God's eyes, are men more important than women?

-No.

-In God's eyes, are women less important than men?

-No.

-Both men and women are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27).

-Both men and women are equally saved by the grace of God.

-Galatians 3:28 says that “there is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

-If women are just as important than men, then why must wives submit to their husbands?

-Because this is God’s design for the family, and God’s design is the best.

-God has designed the family for the husband to lead, and for the wife to follow.

-When is life best in the family?

-When the husband leads and the wife follows.

-People think that it is better for the husband because he leads the family, and that it is bad for the wife because she must follow, but this is not true.

-While the Lord Jesus was on earth, He submitted Himself to the Father.

-God blesses those who submit to Him more than those who do not submit to Him.

-God uses those who submit to Him more than those who do not submit to Him.

-When we are submitted to God, we are allowing God to lead us and be God in our lives.

-A submissive wife can even lead a non-believing husband to faith in Christ.

Let’s read 1 Peter 3:3-4

3-Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes.

4-Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight.

-Is the real beauty of a woman on the outside or on the inside?

-On the inside.

-People look at the beauty of a woman on the outside, but God looks at her beauty on the inside.

-The beauty of a woman on the inside is of great worth and very precious to God.

Let’s read 1 Peter 3:5-6

5-For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves. They submitted themselves to their own husbands,

6-like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her lord. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

-God and Peter use the example of Sarah, and her submission to Abraham, her husband.

-A woman may fear her husband if he is a bad husband, yet the Word of God asks her not to give way to fear.

-The only way to NOT give way to fear is to have a strong faith in God/Christ.

Let's read 1 Peter 3:7

7-Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

-How are wives weaker than husbands?

-Mostly physically.

-Even though wives may be weaker physically, there are many wives who are spiritually stronger than their husbands.

-Do Christian husbands and Christian wives have an equal inheritance in Christ?

-Yes.

-If a husband is not considerate to his wife, can this hinder his prayers?

-Yes.

-After teaching about husbands and wives, the Word of God begs us Christians to be one and to love one another.

Let's read 1 Peter 3:8-9

8-Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.

9-Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

-To be like-minded is like a choir which has many voices, but the song is one song.

-We can be sympathetic, compassionate, and love one another if we humble ourselves before God and one another.

-It is very difficult to NOT repay evil for evil, and this is why there is always war on the earth.

-Only Christ in us is able to repay evil with blessing, yet we must ask Him to do so.

-Who alone is stronger than evil?

-God and His goodness.

Let's read 1 Peter 3:10-12

10-For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech.

11-They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it.

12-For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

-The above three verses are Psalm 34:12-16.

-These three verses teach us that if we can turn away from evil with God's help and do good, we will be blessed from God.

-What must we do, however, when our good is returned with evil?

Let's read 1 Peter 3:13-14

13-Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good?

14-But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened."

-As the Lord Jesus had never sinned, yet was crucified, Christians will suffer for what is right as our Master has suffered.

-When we do suffer for what is right, we should not fear, but rather, know that God can turn the suffering into a blessing.

Let's read 1 Peter 3:15-17

15-But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

16-keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

17-For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

-Even when we Christians are suffering in the flesh for doing good, what can we do on the inside?

-Continue to bless Christ in us.

-When Stephen was being stoned, he was full of the Holy Spirit:

-"Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God" (Acts 7:55).

-When Christ was being crucified, He chose to speak with the Father in spite of what was happening to Him on the outside.

-By responding to evil with gentleness and respect, God can use that in the hearts of those who are persecuting us to shame them.

Let's read 1 Peter 3:18

18-For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.

-It was Jesus' suffering on the cross which has brought us to God and to eternal life with Christ.

-Even though people killed the body of Christ, they could not kill His Spirit.

-This is also true for Christians for in Matthew 10:28, the Lord Jesus said this:

-“Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”

-Even though people can kill the bodies of Christians, they cannot kill our spirit which is one with the Spirit of Christ.

Let's read 1 Peter 3:19-20a

19-After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits—

20-to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built.

-While Christ's body lie in the tomb, Christ in His Spirit went to announce to the demons in prison His victory over sin, death, and Satan.

-Who are these demons to whom Christ announced His victory over sin, death, and Satan?

-These are demons who were disobedient during the days of Noah, and who are now in prison in the bottomless pit.

-In the beginning, Lucifer, an angel, sinned against God, wanting to dethrone Him, but God changed his name and threw Satan and his demons out of heaven.

-Now living on earth, Satan tempted Adam and Eve to sin, and after their sin, all people are now born into sin, separated from God.

-Shortly after their sin, God promised to send the Savior to defeat Satan and to bring people back together with God (Ge 3:15).

-After this, Satan sent demons to live in men who married women who gave birth to evil children.

-In Genesis 6, we read this:

1-When human beings began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them,

2-the sons of God saw that the daughters of humans were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose.

4-The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went to the daughters of humans and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown.

-Who are these “sons of God”?

-They are not people, but angels who became demons, living in men and marrying women in order to destroy all people.

-The children of the “sons of God” and the women they married were called Nephilim which means powerful, evil people.

-There was so much evil living in so many people that God decided to destroy them all, except for Noah and his family who believed in God.

-Genesis 6:

5-The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.

6-The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled.

7-So the Lord said, “I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them.”

8-But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.

-Only Noah and his family were saved, and Satan thought that he had won over God.

-Therefore, while Christ’s body lie in the tomb, Christ in His Spirit went to announce to the demons in prison His victory over sin, death, and Satan.

Let’s read 1 Peter 3:20b-22

20-In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water,

21-and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

22—who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

-The water which saved Noah and his family is a picture of God baptizing us with the Holy Spirit and saving us.

-Angels, authorities, and powers must submit to Christ, and this is what He proclaimed to the demons in prison.