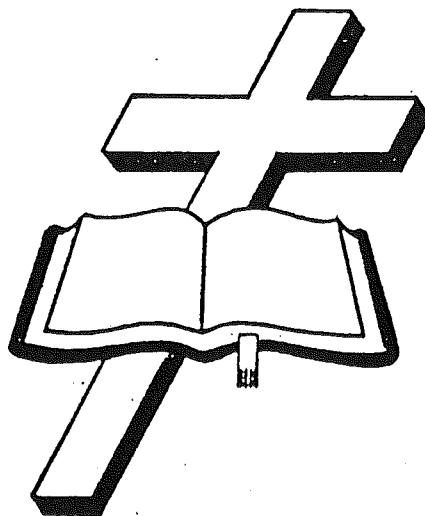


# SUFFERING WITH PATIENCE

(How To Suffer Injury And Not Retaliate)  
I Peter 2:19-25



- ◆ Injustices To Endure
- ◆ Illustration To Consider
- ◆ Invitation To Return

*“If you do well, and suffer for it, and take it patiently, this is acceptable with God” (I Peter 2:20)*

Bill Kirk

# “SUFFERING WITH PATIENCE”

**Text:** I Peter 2:19-25

**Subject:** How To Arrest God’s Attention When Suffering

(Notice Our Text In Verses 19 And 20)

(V. 19), “For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully”.

(V. 20), “For what glory is it, if when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? But if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, **ye take it patiently**, this is acceptable with God”.

(The New International Version Bible Says:)

“It is commendable if you **bear up under the pain** of unjust suffering”

(The New Living Translation Says:)

“God is pleased with you when, for the sake of your conscience, you **patiently endure** unfair treatment”

(The Living Bible Says:)

“If you do right and suffer for it, **and are patient**, God is well pleased”

- ◆ Suffering is not the issue! (That’s a given for us all!)
- ◆ Paul told Timothy in II Timothy 3:12: “**All that live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution**”
- ◆ Jesus said in Matthew 5:44: “People will **curse you, hate you, use you and persecute you**”
- ◆ The Lord (through Paul) told the church in Romans 12:19-21:
  - “Avenge not yourselves” (v. 19)
  - “If your enemy is hungry, feed him” (v. 20)
  - “Overcome evil with good” (v. 21)

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Every believer will be criticized at some time.
- ◆ Every believer will have enemies at some time.
- ◆ Every believer will be mistreated at some time.
- ◆ Every believer will experience betrayal at some time.
- ◆ Every believer will be offended at some time.
- ◆ Every believer will be hurt at some time.
- ◆ Every believer will be misunderstood at some time.

**Fact:** The event is not the issue.

**Fact:** The issue is, how we process the event.

(Remember This:)

- ◆ Past events – we cannot change! (but)
- ◆ Present attitudes towards those events we can change!

**Question:** How many of you want to process the events of your life (God’s way)?

**Question:** How many of you want to respond to people (God’s way)?

**Question:** How many of you want to have (on the inside of you) what God wants (on the inside of you)?

**Question:** How many of you want to be salt and light, and live free of excess baggage that displeases the Lord?

(Bill Gothard Has Said:)

- ◆ “If you want to promote revival, tell people about their responsibilities; if you want to promote rebellion, tell people about their rights” (I repeat)
- ◆ I Peter 2:19, 20 is about the responsibility of being patient under injury,
- ◆ And what happens when we accept that responsibility.

**Question:** What's the word of the Lord to us in I Peter 2:19?

**Answer:** The word is 3 promises from God to those who live on earth.

- ◆ 3 Promises!
- ◆ 3 Guarantees!
- ◆ 3 Absolutes!

**I. You Will Have "Injustices To Endure" (Vs. 19 & 20)**

**Question:** Pastor, what is Peter talking about in vs. 19 & 20?

**Answer:** (V. 18) reveals the meaning:

"Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward (or those harsh and mean)"

- ◆ Peter is addressing Christian slaves or workmen under authority.
- ◆ He addresses those who are saved and accountable to someone else.
- ◆ He broadens the scope to include anyone who experiences the pain of unjust injury.

**(In Peter's Day:)**

1. Bond slaves were usually well treated.
2. They were often in responsible positions.
3. They received some pay for their labor.
4. And, they could eventually purchase their liberty.

**Question:** So why is Peter writing this?

**Answer:** Because many slaves were getting saved.

- ◆ Many were getting converted, and found themselves born again (yet facing injury and unfair treatment).
- ◆ So Peter writes (inspired by the Holy Spirit) a word to every believer whoever faces harsh treatment, personal injury or painful injustice.

**Question:** Pastor, what's my responsibility to God when I experience injustice?

**Answer:** (V. 19), "This is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God, endure grief and suffer wrongfully".

(Verse 20), "...if you do well and suffer for it, **and take it patiently**, this is acceptable (or commendable) to God".

**Question:** How do you endure grief, suffer wrongfully and take it patiently when you are injured?

**Answer:** (V. 19), by understanding the phrase, "**For conscience towards God**"

**(In Other Words)**

1. Suffering injury is not a blessing in and of itself.
2. God gets no glory just because you hurt, cry, feel pain and are mistreated.

**Question:** Then what's the point of being patient when I'm mistreated?

**(The Point Is Found In Verse 19)**

"For conscience towards God" (Which Means:)

- ◆ The natural tendency is to retaliate and get even.
- ◆ The natural urge is to spit back when spat upon.
- ◆ The natural reaction is to inflict pain upon those who inflict you.

**(But "For Conscience Towards God" Verse 19, Means:)**

- ◆ You allow your born again conscience to dictate your behavior (not your injury).
- ◆ You are conscience of God's presence (when you are injured).
- ◆ Your desire is to do God's will, over getting even with your offenders.

**(In Other Words)**

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- ◆ You are conscious (or you are aware) that God is aware of what happened to you.
- ◆ You are conscious that God will render justice, so you can patiently wait.
- ◆ You are conscious that God will right all wrongs.
- ◆ You are conscious that God will be your strength in the meantime.
- ◆ You are conscious of God's mercy towards you (so you can extend mercy towards those who don't deserve it).
- ◆ You are conscious (that God is conscious) of what's happened to you.
- ◆ So you can rise above resentment, bitterness, self-pity and retaliation.

**Question:** Why is this "patience during injustice" so important?

**Question:** Why keep a "clear conscience" whenever you are injured unjustly?

**(I Timothy 6:1)**

"That the name of God and His doctrine be not blasphemed"

**(In Other Words)**

- ◆ When you are insulted or injured (and act like Jesus) you become a witness to your offender.
- ◆ When you (for conscience towards God) take it patiently, you leave room for God to convict that person.
- ◆ When you (for a clear conscience toward God) leave vengeance with God, you witness of God's power and reality in your own life.

**(In Other Words)**

- ◆ God's will (when you are injured) is not to inflict pain because you are in pain.
- ◆ God's will is to convict and save and change the one who caused the pain (through your God-like behavior!)

**Question:** Why must every believer get this New Testament principle?

**Answer:** Because all of us have two choices when we are injured:

- #1. We can choose to get even (and violate our conscience), (or)
- #2. We can keep a clear conscience (and let God get even and render due justice).

**(Again, the key is "For Conscience Toward God")**

**(In Other Words)**

When you are injured...

#1. **You will choose to focus on your injury and the one who caused it (and react in a carnal way).**

**(Or)**

#2. **You will choose to focus upon Jesus (and react in a spiritual way) that will see God's favor be upon you.**

**(Deadly Revenge)**

An HIV-positive woman in Tennessee told police that she was intimate with about fifty men after learning that she had the AIDS virus. Pamela Wiser, 29, said that she had a series of one-night stands with men she met in bars. Wiser said that she contacted the virus from a former boyfriend and stated, "I was just getting revenge for what was done to me".

**Question:** Pastor, where does the power come from to suffer and take it patiently?

**II. You Have An "Illustration To Consider" (Vs. 21-24)**

**Question:** What is it that enables us to respond properly to an injustice?

**Question:** What enables us to (in verse 20) "Take it patiently" when mistreated?

(Verse 21), "For even hereunto were ye called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps".

**Question:** What's our example to copy?

**Answer:** (Verse 23) #1. When reviled **(Jesus did not retaliate)**

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#2. When suffering (Jesus did not threaten)

**Question:** Pastor, how can I (like Jesus) not retaliate and not threaten when I suffer unjustly?

(Verse 23), “But” (But what?) – what did Jesus do?

“But Committed Himself To Him That Judges Righteously”

**Question:** What does it mean to “commit yourself to Him that judges righteously”?

**Answer:** The word “commit” (PAREDIDOU) is a banking term:

- ◆ It means “to deposit for safe keeping” (In Other Words)
- ◆ Jesus “entrusted” or “handed it over” to His Heavenly Father.
- ◆ Jesus “handed over” the painful events of injury and injustice. (In Other Words)
- ◆ Instead of spending His energy to defend, rebuke, retaliate and get even,
- ◆ Jesus was concerned that God’s will be done over everything else.

**Question:** How could Jesus “hand it over”?

**Answer:** Because Jesus knew that God “Judges righteously” (v. 23) or “vindicates what needs to be vindicated”.

- (In Other Words)
- ◆ Why waste your time defending?
  - ◆ Why waste your energy plotting?
  - ◆ Why waste your day scheming?
  - ◆ Why waste your valuable life doing what God said He will do?

**Question:** Been injured by anybody?

**Question:** Been insulted by anybody?

**Question:** Been mistreated by someone?

**Question:** Been slandered by an acquaintance?

**Question:** Been hurt by a relative?

**Question:** Been betrayed by someone you trusted?

**Question:** Can you think of anyone you need to “deposit” or “hand over” to God?

- ◆ The power to do this comes from looking at Jesus...
- ◆ ...and God gives you grace to follow Jesus!

III. **You Have The “*Invitation To Return*” (V. 25)**

**Question:** Who is Peter writing to?

**Answer:** Not unbelievers (but believers who have been injured).

**Question:** What does God say through Peter in verse 25?

**Answer:** “For you were as sheep going astray, but are now returned”.

(What Does It Mean?)

- ◆ Some believers had experienced unjust treatment.
- ◆ Some believers had walked away from the Lord (when they became bitter and angry).
- ◆ Some believers heard the Word of the Lord, became convicted and returned to the Lord (their Shepherd).

- (In Other Words)
- ◆ God knows who’s been injured.
  - ◆ God knows who’s been angry.
  - ◆ God knows who’s responded poorly.
  - ◆ God knows who struggles with hurt, pain, disappointment, unforgiveness, getting even, keeping score!

**Question:** And what does God invite us to do?

**Answer:** To return to the Lord, and be healed by the One, who suffered for us, and carried what He doesn’t want you to carry.

AMEN!

Bill Kirk, Pastor

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