

“Anchored” *The Book of 1 Peter*
Class Notes
Session 27

1 Peter 4.14-19 The reason we suffer for our faith is that *somebody* sees something different in our lives!

When we suffer for doing the right thing it draws us closer to Jesus—who knows what it is like to suffer for doing good!

Peter makes an important point here. We must be sure our persecution is for doing good, not because we are doing wrong. To suffer as a believer is to understand that our suffering should point to Jesus and His glory.

Interestingly, the word “Christian” in v.16 is found in only two other places in the New Testament (*Acts 11:26; 26:28*). D.A. Carson suggests that the use of the word “Christian” in these instances...

“...is assumed to have been used by detractors as a term of contempt...people of the day used the Latin ending *-ianus* (anglicized as ‘-ian’) in two ways...Herod’s followers were called ‘Herodians’ (Mk. 3:6) and so ‘Christians’ could have indicated ‘supporters of Christ.’”¹

(v.17): The time for *judgment*... κρίμα (*krima*)... “To decide”... A good or bad evaluation...

God has begun judging within the church and will judge those outside the church.

Throughout history, persecution has refined and strengthened the church.

1 Peter 5.1-5 If disciples are going to stand up to the challenges of our culture...as well as deepen our spiritual maturity that empowers such living...we must commit ourselves to the kind of lifestyle that leads toward spiritual depth and strength.

A church community that is undergoing trials and persecutions needs strong, faithful leadership and obedient members.

As both work together and support one another, the church is equipped and strengthened.

(1-2): The Organization of the Body of Christ...Caring Leaders.

πρεσβύτερος (*presbutērōs*)...“Elder” (Spiritual authority)

ποιμαίνω (*poimainō*)... Lit, “To Feed” “Care” (As a shepherd with sheep)

ἐπισκοπέω (*episkopēō*)...“To Oversee, look diligently”

In v.2, the role of the elders is now explained. They are like shepherds with their sheep.

The term, “God’s flock” reminds these elders that:

“...the congregation does not belong to them. It is God’s church, and they are given the privilege and responsibility of shepherding it. The [Greek] verb *poimainō*, “shepherd,” is used in Acts 20:28 to describe the responsibility of the elders in the church. We are also reminded of Jesus’ words to Peter in John 21:16, where

¹ D.A. Carson, R.T. France, J.A. Motyer, and G.J. Wenham (Eds.). *New Bible Commentary* (Downers Grove, Illinois: Inter-Varsity Press, 1994).

Jesus exhorted Peter to “shepherd my sheep” (literal translation). Luther rightly argues that we shepherd God’s flock by preaching the gospel...As God’s shepherds and leaders they are to oversee the church and superintend it.”²

(v.3): The word, “domineering” ... *kataklyrieuontes*... Reflects the image of strong person ruling over one who is weak (**Matthew 20.25; Mark 10.42; Acts 19.16**).”

Godly leaders do not push God’s people...they lead them by their examples of spiritually mature character.

(v.5): Faithful Members. Peter now addresses the younger members of the church, admonishing them to listen to and honor their elders.

ὑποτάσσω (*hypotasso*)... “To live under the order of...”

Both leaders *and* followers must be committed to Humility

... ἐγκομβόομαι (*ēgkōmbōōmai*)... “To wrap up” “Gird oneself”

As with all things...Jesus is the model! Jesus is the Chief Shepherd!

For the Elders...In humility...Seeking to emulate and please the Chief Shepherd...they are servants, not dictators!

When the church community comes under the authority of their leaders...with humility...seeking to please Jesus...the church can stand against any outside or inside force that seeks to destroy it!

“Peter addresses both the elders and the younger members of the churches with the following words: “All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’” Whether leader or laity, whether old or young, Christians are to develop a deferential and humble attitude toward one another...they are to respect one another mutually.”³

Going Forward: In this first part of chapter 5, Peter talks to some of the people who were servants in the church of that day and gives them direction about serving, direction that Peter learned from Jesus Himself!

As Christians, we should...

- Choose desire over duty.
- Choose giving over getting.
- Choose being an example over being in control.

² Ibid.

³ Scot McKnight. *The NIV Application Commentary: 1 Peter*. (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Kindle Edition).