



Core Seminars—Suffering for God’s Glory
Class 9: Suffering as Witness

3) How to live from 1 Peter (1 Pet 2:12)

- a. Submit to authority (2:13, 18; 3:1; 5:5)

Connection between authority and suffering.

- b. Entrust yourself to God (2:22-23)

- c. Suffer with a clear conscience (3:16-17)

Conclusion

Next Week:

Week 10: Applying the Framework

Suffering through illness

Questions? [Email addresses of teachers]

Further reading: *How Long O Lord* by D. A. Carson

Making the most of your suffering for the glory of God

Introduction

How does suffering serve God’s purpose to make his glory known?

Hajdu, David. “Wynton’s Blues”, *The Atlantic Monthly*, March 2003

We see more glory in redemption than in creation

Examples of Suffering Displaying God’s Glory

- Joseph’s slavery
- Israel’s Red Sea dead end
- Naomi’s redemption
- Hezekiah’s victory
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego’s deliverance
- Christ’s cross

Philippians 2:14-16.

“Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.”

How does suffering proclaim the Gospel...

1) By changing our circumstances

Acts 8:1 “And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.”

2) By making others bold.

Phil 1:12-14. “I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. *And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.*”

3) By showcasing the hope of the gospel.

1 Peter 3:14-15. “But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.”

4) By displaying the value of knowing Christ.

Philippians 3:8. “Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.”

How can we conduct ourselves in suffering as to point to Christ-- What is our witness-bearing role in suffering?

1) Who we should talk to about our suffering?

2) What to talk about?

- Talk about your suffering.
- Talk about your situation using, when possible, the same words and ideas you do when you talk with your Christian friends.
- Talk about the Gospel
- Explain the reason for *your* hope