

Sermon Discussion Guide

Date: September 22, 2024

Sermon Series: *Steady Sojourners*

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:1-11

Preacher: Hector



SUMMARY

Big Idea: Think Like Christ and Endure Suffering Righteously

The Christian life is countercultural. The more we become like Christ, the more divided unbelievers will respond to us. Either, the aroma of Christ in us will be attractive and they will be drawn to repentance and faith, or, our lives will remain a challenge and protest against their choice of following the world. In the latter, hostility and rejection toward Christ and those who follow him will increase. Still, God remains resolute in his holy purposes in our suffering. In our verses, Peter aims to equip the church to suffer well. How? We must think like Christ, be assured of our redemption and new way of life to choose the Lord's will, pray in anticipation of the hope of eternity, and remain steadfast in our loving service to one another. This way of life was Christ's, and it likewise belongs to those who follow him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

When you became a Christian, did your relationships with friends, family, coworkers, teammates change? If so, how? How did you navigate that transition? (was it easy, difficult, sad, etc..)

READ 1 Peter 4:1-6

1. According to this passage, what is one way that suffering for Christ can come about?
 - a. Have you experienced this? Are you experiencing this now?
2. How does Peter's instruction in these verses equip you to endure?
 - a. How can you be prepared?
 - b. What motivations does Peter give for choosing righteousness (will of God) over unrighteousness (human passions)?
 - c. Who's affirmation and acceptance matters more to you? What makes living this out hard for you?
 - d. Have you experienced others being surprised by what you won't join them in doing? How does this passage equip you to live well in those moments?
 - e. What advantage is there to being a Christian if they suffer more in this life and still end this life by dying just like everyone else?

READ 1 Peter 4:7-11

3. "The end of all things is at hand." According to this passage, what does a life look like that is ready for Christ to return?
 - a. Does that differ from what you would think? How?
4. Hospitality (welcoming in the stranger/outsider/unbeliever), without grumbling.
 - a. What might this look like for you? For your family? For your life group?
5. How are you using, or where can you start using the gifts that God has given you to serve and build up the church?
 - a. As you serve, how do you ensure that you are not relying on your own strength, but on the strength that God supplies?