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**A Study in 1 Peter
Suffering, Sinning, and Serving PT 2**

**Four Corners Church
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In this world, suffering is not optional. You can suffer and sin, or you can suffer and serve.

1 Peter 4:1 *Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking...*

- **Arm your mind before suffering ever attacks your emotions.**
- **Arm yourself with this truth: God is not confused. God has not lost control.**

1 Peter 4:3-5 ³ *For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. ⁴ With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; ⁵ but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.*

- **Don't waste your suffering by returning to your sins.**
- **Don't take vengeance... they will give an account to God.**

1 Peter 4:7-11 ⁷ *The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. ⁸ Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

DON'T WASTE YOUR SUFFERING BY LIVING FOR YOURSELF

- **Keep Your Head (v 7) "Be self-controlled and sober-minded..."**
 - History is moving toward the return of Jesus.
 - Eternity is imminent.
- **Keep Praying (v 7) "...for the sake of your prayers."**
 - Suffering reminds us that we were never truly in control.
 - Prayer says, "God, I need You."

- Keep Loving (v 8) "Above all, keep loving one another earnestly..."
 - o Love does not excuse evil or cover up abuse.
 - o But love also does not gossip or collect ammunition.
 - o Love seeks restoration / reconciliation.
- Keep Showing Hospitality (v 9) "To one another without grumbling."
- Keep being good stewards (v 10) "...of God's varied graces."

There Are 4 Ways To Live:

The godless person says: "I am the owner, and I am the steward."

- "My life. My body. My money. My rules."

The selfish Christian thinks: "I am the owner, and God is the steward."

- "God, here's what I want. You make it happen."

The lazy Christian acts like: "God is the owner and God is the steward."

- "God will do everything. I don't need to do anything."

The mature Christian knows: **"God is the Owner. I am the steward."**

- "It all belongs to Him... and one day He's coming back."

- Keep Using Your Gift (v 11) "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another..."
 - o Words: teaching, encouragement, prayer, leadership, counsel
 - o Works: serving, giving, organizing, helping, hospitality, mercy

THREE QUESTIONS TO TAKE HOME

1. What is suffering producing in me?

2. What sin am I tempted to use as medication?

Name it. Bring it into the light.

3. Who can I serve even while I am suffering?

You do not have to wait until everything is fixed before God can use you.

Some of your greatest ministry may come while you are still limping.

1 Peter 4:12-18 ¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶ Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. ¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ And "If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" ¹⁹ Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.