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How Do We Handle Suffering? 1 Peter 4:12-19

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1. Principle #1: Do not be surprised by suffering but rejoice. (4:12-13)

2. Principle #2: Everybody suffers. Make sure you suffer for the right things. (4:14-15)

3. Principle #3: Do not be ashamed of suffering but glorify God in the name of Jesus. (4:16)

4. Principle #4: Judgment has a different purpose for the believer than it does for the unbeliever. (4:17-18)

5. Principle #5: Trust your faithful Creator. (4:19)

Table Talk

- 1) Why is it easy to be surprised by suffering? How is rejoicing in suffering now going to help us rejoice in glory later? (vv. 12-13)
- 2) How many people suffer? What is the one way to be blessed in suffering? Why is that a blessed position? (see vv. 14-15)
- 3) What are ways that we can be ashamed of suffering? What are ways that we can glorify God in suffering? (v. 16)
- 4) How does thinking about the outcome of suffering for the believer and the unbeliever change my attitude about suffering? (vv. 17-18)
- 5) Do you agree with Peter that believers can suffer "according to the will of God"? If so, how does that impact our view of God's goodness? Can you trust a "faithful Creator," even if it is His will that you suffer?