

Getting Started

1. What is the greatest persecution you have faced for being a Christian?
2. Why do we naturally try to avoid suffering?
3. What topic do you hear about often, but would prefer not to?
4. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's sermon did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

Digging Deeper

5. Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 53:

Q. What do you believe concerning "the Holy Spirit"?

A. First, that the Spirit, with the Father and the Son, is eternal God.¹

Second, that the Spirit is given also to me,² so that, through true faith, he makes me share in Christ and all his benefits³ through true faith, comforts me,⁴ and will remain with me forever.⁵

¹ Gen. 1:1-2; Matt. 28:19; Acts 5:3-4 ² 1 Cor. 6:19; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; Gal. 4:6 ³ Gal. 3:14 ⁴ John 15:26; Acts 9:31

⁵ John 14:16-17; 1 Pet. 4:14

The Holy Spirit rests upon us as we endure suffering. How does this make you feel?

6. While we do not suffer as Christ suffered we share in Christ's suffering. Read Romans 8:17; 2 Cor. 1:5, Philippians 1:29; and Col. 1:24. What does it mean to share in Christ's suffering?
7. Read Luke 6:26. Is it problematic if you are not suffering for your faith?
8. Was Peter referencing Ezekiel 9:5-6, Zech. 3:9 or Malachi 3:1-3 when he wrote 1 Peter 4:17?

Application

9. We live in a broken and sinful world so we are going to endure suffering for our faith. As Christians we can get bogged down by this or we can see it as an opportunity to remain loyal to the Lord. How do you view suffering? Wear your suffering as a badge of honor and give glory to God.

Bible Reading Questions

October 31 – Matthew 19; Mark 10 – Jesus says that the first will be last and the last will be first. James and John disregard this teaching and ask for a place of honor. What teaching of God do you disregard?

November 1 – Matthew 20-21 – Do you think that God owes you more because of your faithfulness?

November 2 – Luke 19 – When Jesus says “to those whom more will be given,” what does that mean for believers?

November 3 – Mark 11; John 12 – Why did the people celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem?

November 4 – Matthew 22; Mark 12 – Is Jesus trying to frustrate the Pharisees?

November 5 – Matthew 23; Luke 20-21 – Jesus said that the current generation would not pass away before he returned. We have been waiting ever since. When is Jesus coming back?

November 6 – Mark 13 – Why do we long for Jesus' return?

Ross Community Reformed Church

Pastor Shawn Gerbers · October 30, 2016

Common Problems

“Confirmation of Faith”

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. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

1 Peter 4:12-14

- **Suffering for our faith is a _____ because it _____ we _____ to God.**

- **We suffer _____ so that we can rejoice _____.**

Topics: Suffering, judgment, endurance