

“Following In Jesus’ Steps”

1 Peter 2:18-26

I. Responsibility of Servants to Master

A. Be Submissive with all Respect

Servants, be subject to masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the unreasonable.

Ephesians 6:5

Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ

Colossians 3:22

Slaves, obey those who are your human masters in everything, not with eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

Colossians 3:23,24

Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord and not for people, knowing that it is from the Lord that you will receive the reward of the inheritance. *It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.*

I. Responsibility of Servants to Master

A. Be Submissive with All Respect

B. Applicable to All Masters

C. Rationale Behind Command

For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. (NIV)

For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. (ESV)

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II. Suffering as a Christian

A. Not Something Strange

The church in each culture has its own special challenges—theological blind spots that hinder Christians from growing to full maturity in Christ I think one of the most serious theological blind spots in the western church is a defective understanding of suffering. There seems to be a lot of reflection on how to avoid suffering and on what to do when we hurt.

We have a lot of teaching about escape from suffering and therapy for suffering, but there is inadequate teaching about the theology of suffering The "good life," comfort, convenience, and a painless life have become necessities that people view as basic rights. If they do not have these, they think something has gone wrong One of the results of this attitude is a severe restriction of spiritual growth, for God intends us to grow through trials. - Ajith Fernando

Philippians 1:29,30

For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer on His behalf, experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear to be in me

Romans 8:17,18

The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

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B. Purpose in Suffering

When I think of how that process changed that cathedral in Paris—I can't help but consider the way God uses suffering to sandblast you and me. There's nothing like real hardships to strip off the veneer in which you and I so carefully cloak ourselves. Heartache and physical pain reach below the superficial, surface places of our lives, stripping away years of accumulated indifference and neglect.

When pain and problems press up against a holy God, suffering can't help but strip away years of dirt. Affliction has a way of jackhammering our character, shaking us up and loosening our grip on everything we hold tightly. But the beauty of being stripped down to the basics, sandblasted until we reach a place where we feel empty and helpless, is that God can fill us up with himself. When pride and pettiness have been removed, God can fill us with "Christ in you, the hope of glory."

“Contrary to what might be expected, I look back on experiences that at the time seemed especially desolating and painful with particular satisfaction. Indeed, I can say with complete truthfulness that everything I have learned in my 75 years in this world, everything that has truly enhanced and enlightened my experience, has been through affliction and not through happiness.” - Malcolm Muggeridge

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C. Our Calling

III. Suffering of Jesus

A. How He Suffered

“He left his case in the hands of God, who
always judges fairly.” (NLT)

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III. Suffering of Jesus

A. How He Suffered

B. Why He Suffered

“It denotes the restoration of divine fellowship through the forgiveness of sins, and all the saving benefits which accompany it.”

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A. How He Suffered

B. Why He Suffered

C. Following in His Steps

Matthew 5:10-12

“Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in this same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

