

1 Peter 2:11-15

Outline for Congregation

October 3, 2010

Fleeing For Comfort

- Suffering seems so meaningless and unnecessary that many of us can't face it – instead we run to what will relieve us
- The Bible calls us to do what is right and to persevere in doing right even if it means having to endure suffering

Doing Good And Suffering (v20)

- Various sufferings: personal (v11), social (v12), structural (vv13-18)
- Suffering as a result of the wrong we do (v20; cf 1 Peter 4:15)
- Suffering as a result of doing good – application to challenges in the work place (v18)

Enduring, Mindful of God (v19)

- Suffering as sojourners and exiles (v11)
- Suffering as servants of God (v16)
- Suffering after Christ's example (v21)
- Suffering while healing (v24)
- Suffering by faith in him who judges justly (v23)

Questions for reflection:

1. When stress and difficulties come, what do you turn to for comfort?
2. In what contexts do you encounter ethical dilemmas where you are pressured to do something you don't believe is right? What consequences would there be for refusing to do what is wrong?
3. What sphere is your greatest moral struggle in: personal (emotional/psychological struggle – you are tempted to do something you know is wrong)? Social (peer pressure, or some desire to conform to the wrongful expectations of others to be accepted by them, or to avoid alienation, being slandered, etc.)? Structural (someone with a measure of authority over you uses threat of consequences to try to force you to do what you know you should not)?
4. What does it look like to “endure sorrows while suffering unjustly” in a way that is mindful of God? How can being mindful of God make a difference?

5. How does the example of Jesus (1 Peter 2:21-25) direct you in how to conduct yourself in the particular trials you face? Where do you need to grow? In being able to refrain from speaking evil of those doing you wrong? In not seeking revenge? In lacking faith that justice will prevail? In being willing to suffering unjustly for the sake of others? In not giving up? Create a plan in your mind for how you think you should conduct yourself when facing unjust suffering.
6. The gospel is about the kindness God shows to us even though we are not deserving of it. What can you do to deepen your appreciation of this truth so that you can show grace to others in the way that God has shown grace to you?