



**Foster City Campus**

**Suffering for Following Christ**

**1 Peter 4:12 - 19**

**April 30, 2017 || Neal Benson**

This week we begin a new section in the New Testament Letter of 1 Peter. Peter is returning to the subject of suffering in the life of a believer. This time Peter is going to address suffering from a fresh perspective, but which is closely related to what we've read earlier in the letter. The fresh view on suffering is the joy can be found while you suffer.

1. In verses 12 and 13, Peter encourages the original audience to find joy while they suffer. This sounds counterintuitive. How can or would someone rejoice when they are suffering?

2. In verses 14-16 Peter offered three instructions on suffering:

- 1) You're blessed when you're insulted for Christ
- 2) Avoid suffering for sin
- 3) Do not be ashamed in your suffering

All of these instructions begin with "If you suffer" making us think the physical suffering for Christ hasn't begun yet. When you look at these three instructions, what one is the most difficult for you to implement in your life?

3. Peter keeps the same train of thought but makes a shift to talking about suffering and God's judgment. Verses 17 and 18 are very similar in their structure. Peter repeats himself to get across a point. What is he communicating here?

4. Neal asked us to let the questions in verse 17 and 18 "bother us this week." How has thinking about these questions impacted the way you view people who do not obey the Gospel?

5. Peter concludes this new point of view on suffering by instructing the believers to trust God when they suffer. Since we live in America, and suffering for religious beliefs is minor, how can we apply this instruction to our lives?



## North Campus Sermon Questions

### Joyfully Suffering

1 Peter 4:12 - 19

April 30, 2017 || Rob Hall

1. Explain the difference between God's *testing* us and satan's *tempting* us.
2. How does Peter say we ought to respond to suffering for the name of Christ? Why?
3. How is it possible to rejoice in suffering?
4. How have trials led you into deeper fellowship with Jesus?
5. How can you glorify God through your trials?
6. Name three (or more) specific things you can do to best commit yourself to God and keep doing good.



## South Campus Sermon Questions

### Surprised and Strange

1 Peter 4:12 - 19

April 30, 2017 || Dominic Rivera

**Big Idea: Christians can respond to suffering by rejoicing that they participate in the suffering of Christ**

1. According to verse 12, what is the purpose of suffering (the “fiery ordeal”)?
2. Using verses 12-13, what are the two contrasting options of how to respond to suffering?
3. Describe a time in which you were able to rejoice in the midst of suffering.
4. What are the barriers to you regularly rejoicing in suffering?
5. In verse 17, Peter reminds his readers that all people will have to give an account for the way that they lived. How does this future judgment influence how you respond to suffering?
6. In verse 19, what are the two actions to take when you suffer?
7. How can you build the habitat of rejoicing in suffering?